

PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS- 1939

Gadsden, Ala., Times
June 20, 1939

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 26, 1939

MAY OPEN TUXEDO PARK

The Park Board today agreed to out up half the cost of operating Tuxedo Park, a Negro park at Ensley, until Sept. 30, provided the Colored Civic League puts up the other half. Estimated cost is \$250. The board agreed to take over a lease on the park at a rental of \$20 a month.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 14, 1939

NEGROES URGE RECREATION UNIT

Homewood Club Backs Plan To Provide Sports Center

Creation of a center to provide "wholesome and directed recreation" for the Negro youth of Greater Birmingham, is being urged by the Homewood Colored Civic League.

Homewood Negroes have donated a \$5,000 plot for the center and have also pledged \$1,000, but there still remains a \$1,500 deficit of the \$2,500 sponsors must contribute in order to get federal aid.

The civic league, which has been endorsed by Mayor E. C. Bloom, of Homewood, is asking public contributions and support. Checks should be made payable to the Homewood Recreation Committee and sent to the bonded treasurer, Damon Lee, 1720 South Twenty-Seventh Avenue, Homewood.

Present plans provide for a combination recreation hall and swimming pool.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
June 22, 1939

City Offered Land For Negro Park

Ten acres of land in the southwestern section of the city has been offered for a park for negroes by Father Harold Purcell, founder and head of the "City of St. Jude," a Catholic church and school for negroes.

The property is owned by the institution, Commissioner W. A. Gayle, head of the parks and playground division said. The city is interested in such a park for the colored race and the proposition will likely be discussed when Mayor Gunter returns to the city.

Playground For Negroes Sought

Efforts are still being made to provide playgrounds for colored school children. Two colored women appeared before the city commission this morning and asked for help in securing some ground on Kyle Street at the foot of Lookout Mountain where equipment for organized play could be placed.

It developed that one of the lots wanted had just been sold and might not be subject to lease.

It was decided to ascertain if this property could be secured and also to inquire about another lot nearer town.

The city will grade any lots that may be taken for this purpose and will aid the project all it can right now.

While nothing was said about it at the meeting, it is understood that a movement will soon be started to institute a number of playground projects here, for both white and colored children.

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Drive Underway For Negro State Park Funds

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (SNS)—A campaign is underway here for collection of funds which will lead to the erection of a State Park for Negroes with the Federal and Alabama State governments contributing to its construction and upkeep respectively.

When the job is completed this State Park will be the first and only of its kind for Negroes in Alabama and in the South.

Headquarters have been set up at the office of County Farm Agent T. J. Alexander for the purpose of raising \$4,000 to purchase 400 acres of land within seven miles of Montgomery for the park site.

The Federal government has agreed to invest many times more than the initial outlay and will place a CCC Camp on it with facilities for a park and recreation. The Alabama Conservation Department has agreed to pay for the upkeep of the park and recreational activities.

L. D. Lowe is chairman of the drive.

Montgomery Plans City Park As Recreation Center For Race

WPA to Transform Ten-Acre Tract into Extensive Athletic Field, Meeting and Dance Pavilions and Playgrounds for Children—Fund-Raising Campaign a Success.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 19—(Special)—Announcement was made here Thursday by the City Commission, that plans are now being prepared for the development and equipment of a Negro city park for Montgomery. It will be a WPA project, it was stated, and will occupy a ten-acre tract in the city's Southwest section.

The plans now going forward, it was revealed, include a combination baseball and football athletic field which will also be suitable for the holding of track events; a large pavilion for the holding of meetings, and also suitable for use as dancing pavilion or for other social or entertainment purposes; a swimming pool, and wading pool and playground for children, tennis courts, picnic shelters, barbecue pits, and other accessories.

The second development of its kind, though on a smaller scale, the Negro City Park will have no connection with, but will be in addition to the Negro State Park to be established near Montgomery. A campaign to raise the nominal amount of funds required for purchase of the park site is now well under way and making excellent progress.

When the site is bought, a CCC camp will be established there, and the park developed with Federal and State funds. When the

50-50 Plan for Control of Playgrounds Proposed by Recreation Director Barrett

National Negro Congress Presents Survey on Play Conditions

BULLETIN

Melvin Sharpe, board of education member, who is a member of the District Recreation Board, denied yesterday (Wednesday) that Miss Sibyl Baker, white, former playground head, has been named to the position of assistant director of playgrounds over the four assistants recommended by Playground Coordinator Barrett. She is slated for no such position, Sharpe said.

The reported appointment of Miss Baker, announced earlier Wednesday as the first assistant to Coordinator Barrett, head of all District play facilities, proved a disappointment to colored citizens, who had been promised an equal share in the control of playgrounds.

A sub-committee of the Joint Citizens' Committee, headed by Doxey A. Wilkerson, called upon Mr. Barrett at once to protest Miss Baker's appointment. They were told by the playground head that the naming of Miss Baker as his direct assistant had not been a part of his plan as recommended to the playground committee and the District Commissioners.

Two white and two colored assistants were proposed by Barrett to come directly under his supervision. Miss Baker, according to an interpretation of her appointment, would be directly over the four assistants.

Citizens protest her appointment on the grounds that during her career as head of the District playground department she neglected to put recreational affairs of the District for colored people on a par with those of white.

They contend that with her as supervisor of the four assistants, the prejudice formerly existing in recreational opportunities for colored people would

not be ameliorated, and the equal arrangement as planned by Barrett would be nullified. (See editorial.)

A plan to place all playground facilities under two colored and two white assistant directors was given to the sub-committee of the District Recreation Board by Recreation Director Lewis B. Barrett Tuesday, as the main feature of a reorganization plan for District recreation agencies.

A detailed plan is expected to be submitted to the entire board, this week, which will include suggestions for salaries and duties of the assistants and of persons to fill the new positions.

Members of the District Recreation Board are Commissioners Melvin C. Hazen and George E. Allen, and Daniel McCoach, Mrs. Henry Gratton Doyle, president of the Board of Education, Melvin C. Sharpe, white, and John H. Wilson, the latter two, school board members.

Been Divided

Heretofore recreation facilities in the District have been divided among the Community Center Department, the Board of Education, the National Capital Parks and the District Playground Department. A fight for control has been waged among the above agencies for a number of years.

The Recreation Board composed of the District Commissioners and members of the Board of Education was finally appointed with Mr. Barrett as the director responsible for co-ordinating and managing the entire recreation set-up.

The plan to divide control among an equal number of white and colored assistant directors has surpassed the expectations of colored citizens, who have been demanding at least a proportionate share of employees on the staff of Director Barrett. For the current year he has \$305,320 at his disposal for carrying out the recreation program.

One of the chief difficulties in the past has been friction between the playground department, the Community Center department of the school board, committees on budget and management, and the Capitol Parks and Planning Commission. It was the recreation needs of colored people, the Congress survey intimates, that have borne the brunt of such friction.

The survey takes cognizance of the fact that it is the purpose of recreation to provide an outlet for the pent-up energies that grow restive under the restrictions of overcrowded housing and the relative problems of population growing out of congestion. Overcrowding was said to be most serious in the central Northwest section.

Juvenile Delinquency Highest

Here it was found is the highest incidence of juvenile delinquency of any area in the entire city. Accordingly, studies made in 1937 by the Washington Council of Social Agencies, the survey observers, adult delinquency reached a total of 9,698 arrests in this area for the same period.

Moreover, the poor housing problem is intensified by home disorganization as reflected in the number of nonsupport cases brought into court, the general unemployment and low status of people in congested districts, children left without parental supervision while mothers are at work and a growing traffic in the use and dissemination of harruana.

There is alarming significance attached to the fact that the 1937 statistics give a total of 1,104 births for that year in the central northwest area, with a separate tabulation of 242 illegitimate births for the same area and period.

Perhaps a new departure is apparent in the consideration of the survey of recreation after dark. Doxey A. Wilkinson, Howard University professor, feels that there is no logical reason why recreational facilities and supervision should stop at 5 o'clock on summer afternoons.

It may be expected, therefore, that recommendations will be forthcoming for lighted playgrounds at least one tennis court for evenings, similar to the one presently in use for whites.

The National Negro Congress survey will be presented formally and distributed at the next regular monthly meeting, August 31, at 8 p.m., at the Twelfth Street YMCA. Several officials

D.C.

Public Recreation

Reorganization is under way in the administration of public recreational facilities in the District of Columbia. Playground and Community Center activities, formerly administered by the Commissioners and the Board of Education, respectively, are now being placed under the centralized administration of a "coordinator," who is responsible to a joint-committee of the Board of Education and Commissioners. Such centralization of responsibility is good. But reorganization should go farther to correct one major evil which has long obtained; namely, the woeful neglect of playground facilities for Negro citizens.

Several weeks ago, the Washington Council of Social Agencies reported:

"It is true that Washington has numerous and well-equipped playgrounds and ample park space, but parks and playgrounds are poorly located. . . . In the central area, which has a relatively large number of colored juvenile delinquents, there are no public playgrounds and no indoor swimming pools for Negroes, outside of school facilities. The only Negro recreation center in this area, which lacks open space, is the Northwest Settlement House, which has inadequate facilities and can provide for only a very limited number of children."

This quotation only begins to suggest the extent of inadequacies and racial inequalities in the provision and equipment of public playgrounds for Negroes in Washington.

An initial and essential step, toward correction of this condition, would be to appoint responsible Negro administrative officials in charge of playground and other recreational programs for Negroes. It is apparent that the new "coordinator," if his job is to be well done, must

have administrative assistants in immediate charge of various aspects of the recreational program. Included in this administrative staff should be competent Negro officials in charge of recreational facilities and programs for Negroes.

Further, such Negro officials should be vested with real administrative authority, and should be subordinate to none other than the coordinator, himself.

This one simple change in the administrative organization of public recreation could be expected to pay large dividends in more adequate provision for the needs of Negro children. Now is the time to make the change.

The Washington Council of National Negro Congress is leading the fight for more adequate recreational facilities for Negroes. The Joint Citizens' Committee is likewise currently active in this matter. The efforts of these two groups are most timely, and their objectives completely valid and extremely important. They should receive the full support of our entire community.

The reported appointment of Miss Sybil Baker, white, general assistant to Lewis R. Barrett, newly appointed recreation administrator, calls for the appointment of a colored person to have equal administrative duties in complete charge of the colored recreational facilities and who would be directly responsible to Mr. Barrett.

Miss Baker is the official who has been directing the Playground Department which has so flagrantly neglected the interests of Negro citizens in the past. She must not be placed over the proposed two Negro administrative assistants; otherwise, their effectiveness will be largely nullified. Civic, fraternal and other groups should act at once to prevent this development. Write to the Joint Committee on Recreation, District Building, Washington, D. C.

A public meeting on this problem is being called by the National Negro Congress for Monday, July 31.

at the Twelfth Street YMCA, at which a survey of Negro public recreational facilities will be presented, and several speakers will interpret the immediate problem. YOU should attend this meeting.

What Co-ordination of D.C. Recreation Proposes to Do

By THOMAS J. ANDERSON
Assistant Director General

(Editor's Note: This is the fifth and final chapter of a complete explanation of the new recreation set-up for the District of Columbia.)

In July, 1939, a report on the inadequacy of public recreational facilities for Negroes in the District of Columbia was made by the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress. The report was an elaboration of a "Survey of Public Recreation Facilities in the District of Columbia," made by the author of this article following the Weir Survey of Recreation in the District of Columbia in 1936.

The major recommendations of the Congress were:

1. That the recreation program of the District be coordinated into a unified whole.
2. That competent Negro officials be placed in charge of recreational programs for Negroes. Such officials should be vested with real administrative authority and should be directly responsible to none other than the Coordinator of Recreation.
3. That the fee system be abolished.
4. That the quality of personnel serving Negro playgrounds be significantly enhanced.
5. That the recreation program be broadened.
6. That additional playgrounds be established in congested areas which lack such facilities.
7. That Negro centers be more adequately equipped.
8. That several play areas for Negroes be equipped with lights for night use.
9. That natural tendencies toward cooperative play by members of Negro and white races be fostered.
10. That playgrounds now restricted to a few whites in pre-

dominantly Negro neighborhoods be made available for use by Negroes.

11. That racial discrimination in the use of Federal play areas be abolished.

12. That the privilege of discrimination be denied corporations operating public grounds as concessions.

13. That swimming, track and field facilities be increased.

That the above recommendations be sound and consistent with democratic policy few will gainsay. In a democracy, these proposals represent worthy goals yet to be effected by the congressional legislation, which recently coordinated recreation in the District of Columbia.

Depends Upon Alert Citizens

The extent to which recreation facilities for Negroes in the District of Columbia will become adequate within the next decade will depend largely upon the sensitivity of the Negro population to their needs, and the ability of their representatives to adequately present these claims to the law-making bodies.

Democracy functions adequately only through an alert citizenry. The record of the past indicates that the complacent always have been and always will be exploited. The inarticulate citizen is exploited even by members of his own group.

Organization of advisory councils in each major recreation area is the key to the solution of neighborhood problems affecting recreation in the District of Columbia. The staffs of each area are expected to interpret the expressed desires of the people in terms of a community program.

The elimination of gaps in the program is the joint responsibility of the citizens and the professional staffs. Whatever needs are provided for in the budget becomes a matter of Congressional action. Just as it is impossible to get blood out of a turnip, so it is that needs which are not anticipated by the budget cannot be met solely

through administration. The latter cannot perform miracles.

Coordination Plan

Some actions of the coordination plan in record with the recommendations of the Council are as follows:

1. Two Negroes responsible solely to the Coordinator of Recreation, are included in the administrative and policy-making personnel.
2. The fee system has been abolished in all Negro centers.
3. All additions to permanent leadership have qualified according to a standard equipment to that of public school teachers.
4. A year around in-service training program, conducted by four leaders in the respective fields of dramatics, music, art-craft and dancing is now in operation.
5. Forty play centers employing a staff of 198 leaders were operated in Negro areas during the summer. This number exceeds by ten the total number of centers operated in any previous year.
6. Evening centers in every major recreation area now operate on a five rather than a three-day basis as formerly.
7. Additional school playgrounds are operating on a year-round basis.
8. The full time professional staff has been increased.
9. Definite steps to promote interracial goodwill have been set in motion.

In addition an elaborate program of city-wide activities are being organized in each major recreation area; the cultural base of the program is being greatly expanded and the activities of the Department of Recreation are being dovetailed with those of the public schools.

Thus the setting up of a parallel organization of recreation under co-ordination is a technique for guaranteeing approximate equality in the distribution of recreational benefits to the people. The professional staff seeks to analyze and interpret community needs and provide a progressive leadership which will facilitate the realization of these needs. In the end community problems resolve themselves into a simple generalization which may be expressed in language similar to that of Martin Luther.

Paraphrased it would read: Salvation comes not through the intercession of public officials, but through everlasting pressure upon public officials by the people.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
March 16, 1939

Park Program Will Be Dedicated To City's Winter Visitors

Tonight's program in William park, dedicated to winter visitors from the 48 states, Canada and foreign countries, will be presented in two parts—the first being diversified novelties, and the second a concert by the negro singers of Wheaton's community chorus, a WPA federal music project.

The program, beginning at 7:45 o'clock, has been arranged by William A. Kenmuir and Jack Zumbahlen and will be as follows:

PART 1

Cornet and vocal solo, Lavinia McKenna, accompanied by Mrs. Henry Daehler.

Piano selection, Mrs. Henry Daehler.

Monologue, Walt Jones.

Soprano solos, "One Night of Love" and "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen," Vesta Jane Stokes, queen of the 1934 Festival of States, accompanied by Louis Hollingsworth.

Readings, "Betty at the Baseball Game," "St. Peter at the Gate," "If You Want a Kiss, Just Take It," Elizabeth Andrews, Essex, Mass.

Scotch novelty act, John Murray, Glasgow, Scotland, accompanied by Ione Miller Brubaker.

Tricks, by "Patches," trained dog from Old Orchard, Me., under direction of William Franklin, trainer.

PART 2

Concert by Wheaton's community chorus of 100 negro voices, directed by Edward Wheaton.

Songs, "Some of These Days," "Seek and Ye Shall Find," "Blind Man Stood on the Road and Cried," "O Rocks Don't Fall On Me," "Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name," "Walk in Jerusalem Just Like John," "Going to Shout All O'er God's Heaven" and "Holy City."

Doug Davis will be master of ceremonies for the first part and Newton B. Packer for the second part.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
May 9, 1939

Playground For Colored Gets Approval

Awaits Signature Of President Roosevelt

The second of three WPA projects in the city today had the approval of the Works Progress Administration in Washington.

City Manager Eugene Masters said the colored playground project on Central Avenue had been approved and awaited the signature of President Roosevelt. Calling for the erection of a recreational building and installation of playground equipment, the job is expected to total \$9,000.

The Davis Shores project to pave the strip parallel to Anastasia Boulevard and to beautify the park area in between has been approved and needs the President's signature. The project involves \$30,000.

City Manager Masters said he had not had a report from the U. S. engineer in Jacksonville on whether the city can begin dredging Oyster Creek. The Oyster Creek project for beautifying the section and building a bridge still is in the hands of the WPA for approval. It amounts to about \$20,000.

New Smyrna, Fla., News
May 21, 1939

NEGROES ENJOY OPENING OF PARK

Picnic and Barbecue at
Area on Mary Avenue
Celebrates Event

Official opening of the new city park for Negroes took place today when a free picnic was held on the grounds of the park, west of the railroad on Mary Avenue. The event began early in the afternoon and continued for many hours.

The Willing Workers sponsored the opening picnic at the park, where seats have been made for the comfort of visitors. A barbecue pit also was built by the Negroes, and barbecued meat will be on the menu at the picnic supper tonight. Celebrating the opening of the park, the Negroes also are tagging their annual May party at the park today.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
January 4, 1939

~~Director of Arts~~

To Speak In City

National Recreation Association
Representative To Appear On
Several Programs

Frank A. Staples, director of arts and crafts of the National Recreation association, who is visiting here, will meet with a number of local groups today.

At luncheon he will address the Lions club at the Washington Duke hotel, speaking on hobbies.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock he will speak to the leaders of boys' and girls' craft clubs in the council chamber at the city hall.

Tonight at 8 o'clock Mr. Staples will speak in the arts and music room at the North Carolina College for Negroes.

The representative of the National Recreation association arrived in Durham yesterday and was being entertained by C. R. Wood, municipal recreation director.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
March 16, 1939

Play Institute For Girls Opens Sessions Here

A training institute, to teach older Atlantans how to play and find relaxation, began the first session of its series Wednesday night at the new Henry Grady Gymnasium under the supervision of Miss Ethel Bowers, secretary of recreation for girls and women of the National Recreation Association.

Her visit here is under auspices of the City Parks Department and the Works Progress Administration to study programs and facilities to increase activities for girls and women and for co-recreation.

Most people have the wrong idea of what constitutes beneficial recreation, according to Miss Bowers. Instead of just including basketball, baseball and similar sports it really includes music, dramatics, handicraft, club work and games of any kind, she believes.

FROWNS ON DRESS

Because of better health and medical services, enabling people to live longer, the recreation expert said, "before long we are going to have a tremendous population of old people. They will have a great deal of leisure time on their hands which can best be spent on a well-balanced program of playing."

Education for spare time is just as important as education for a job, she emphasized. The way that young girls dress in too abbreviated costumes, and the manner in which so many people play to win instead of play for fun, were frowned upon by Miss Bowers.

OTHER SESSIONS

The second session of the series of meetings with professional and volunteer leaders of girls' and women's recreation activities was held at the Y. M. C. A. auditorium Thursday morning. Another will be at the same location Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

A session to demonstrate social

recreation activities suitable for mixed groups of young and adults will meet at 7:30 Thursday night at the Henry Grady Gymnasium. Afternoon meetings will be held for negro leaders at the University Homes Auditorium from 3 to 5 p. m.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
April 23, 1939

Plan Recreation Institute Here For Teachers

A recreation training institute for the benefit of Atlanta teachers, playground supervisors, church workers, Scout masters and camp counselors will be held on the Emory University campus between June 12 and July 8, it was announced Saturday by the recreation division of the Atlanta Parks Department. George I. Simons is general manager of the latter.

The institute will be sponsored by the university, the National Recreation Association and a number of civic organizations.

Three nationally known experts will give instruction in nature activities, arts and crafts and social recreation during the four-week period. Classes will be held each morning and Tuesday and Friday evenings. Duplicate classes for negroes will be held at Atlanta University.

Alva G. Maxwell, local sponsor of the association, is chairman of the institute; J. Lee Harne, Jr., city recreation director, is chairman of the executive committee, and Miss Louise Gosnell is secretary of the institute. Information will be obtainable at the City Hall after May 15.

Local organizations underwriting the school include the Rotary, Civitan, Lions, Optimist, Pilot and Quota clubs, Atlanta Council of Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Group Work Section of the Social Planning Council, Greater Atlanta Basketball Federation and American Association of University Women.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
May 14, 1939

Emory Offers Recreation Training

A Recreation Training Institute for volunteer and professional recreation leaders and teachers will be held at Emory University in Atlanta June 12 to July 7, inclusive, in connection with the regular summer session.

Courses in arts and crafts, social recreation and nature activities will be taught by experts on the institute staff of the National Recreation Association.

The institute is being sponsored locally by the Atlanta Park Department and the Atlanta Social Planning Council.

This institute—the first of its kind in Atlanta—has been held in more than 35 leading cities in America during the past few years.

Similar courses will be offered through the School of Social Work at the Atlanta University summer session for colored leaders.

Through the co-operation of National Recreation Association tuition fees for the courses are nominal.

Bulletins giving complete information about the institute may be secured from the Atlanta Park Department, 601 City Hall, or the Registrar's office at Emory University or Atlanta University.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 13, 1939

100 IN AREA ATTEND RECREATION SCHOOL

Training Institute at Emory Opens Four-Week Course.

More than 100 recreation leaders from Atlanta and other cities and towns in Georgia attended the opening session of the Training Institute for Recreation Work-

ers which opened yesterday at Emory University. The course will continue for four weeks during which instruction in leadership training will be given workers.

Nature, social recreation and arts and crafts are included on the program, while games, hobbies and crafts are among other activities. Most of those enrolled already are engaged in some form of recreation leadership in schools, churches, and the WPA administration recreational organization.

The courses are being sponsored by the city park department and Social Planning Council. Similar courses for colored workers are being provided at Atlanta University by the Atlanta School of Social Work. A short course has been arranged for those who are unable to attend during the day and will be held Tuesday and Friday nights from 7 o'clock until 10 o'clock.

Houma, La. Courier
February 28, 1939

Negro Playground Now Under Construction

The first provisions for a negro playground in Houma were made during 1939, and local negroes are looking forward to the completion of a colored recreational center on the site of the former city dump. Cooperation in the work of cleaning off the site of the debris that had collected on it was the Houma Colored Civic League, a local negro organization, the city of Houma, the Terrebonne Parish School Board and the parish of Terrebonne, besides private individuals.

The plans for this playground call for the construction of a baseball and softball diamond, and the erection of playground equipment.

Local negro churches and congregations have been of material assistance in this work, and there is no doubt that this project will be brought to completion during 1939.

Highland Beach

1891 -- 1939

**Oldest Colored Incorporated Town
In Maryland Grew Out of Bay Ridge
When Douglass Family Built There.**

By FLORENCE MURRAY

[Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of several articles giving a brief sketch of the history and background of Highland Beach, Md., its highlights and set-backs in its struggle for existence and its efforts to reach the goal set by its founding fathers.]

The little summer resort of Highland Beach, Md., oft-complimented, oft-condemned, sometimes in the limelight of publicity, sometimes quietly and unobtrusively plodding on its way, is nearing its fiftieth birthday.

There are a very few of its residents, let alone others, who know that the much-discussed and nationally known community on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, five miles outside of Annapolis, the capital of Maryland, has a background that can take its place among the annals of the struggle of the Negro race in America.

Indeed, Highland Beach, like the Douglass was chosen for the tenth race to whom it belongs, has come consecutive term; and had also a long way, and has suffered the been elected to this position by growing pains endured by practically the citizens of the little community cally all of the country's townships during their pioneering days.

Coveted by Many

The resort, often referred to as "exclusive" has been coveted by many because of its unusually beautiful sloping beach, its wooded fields, its attractive foliage, birds, its rich soil, and facilities for crabbing and fishing.

On the other hand, it has been ridiculed by others because of its exclusiveness, or privacy, if you will, which the founding fathers and their heirs intended that it should have — "strictly residential area where their families would be protected from the undesirable influences of the average summer resort."

Highland Beach is an incorporated township. It was granted its charter by the State of Maryland in 1922 and was the first colored community to be incorporated in the State. Since that time, four others have become townships. Haley G. Douglass, present mayor of the Beach, is the son of the founder of the community, who built the first house there, Major Charles R. Douglass.

At the seventeenth annual civic elections held this month, Mr.

heard of and the distance — about 40 miles — was too far for old Ned to pull the buggy for a day's outing.

During Reconstruction Days, when Negroes served in the legislatures of Southern States, were elected to the United States Congress in larger numbers than they have ever been since, and were appointed to more diplomatic positions than they are today, Highland Beach was the playground of many of those illustrious politicians and diplomats whose names have come down to us as historical characters.

Other Officers

Other officers of the town re-elected again this year are Dr. John Washington, town clerk, and Talley Holmes, treasurer. The two other members of the five-man town council, called commissioners, are Miss Imogene Wormley and Dr. William A. Wells.

The charter of the Beach, as it is called by its citizens, calls for the election of five residents to the board of commissioners. They in turn elect officers of the board, the chairman of which is the mayor of the community.

Mrs. Fannie Douglass, wife of the late Joseph Douglass, brother to the mayor, has been the post-office mistress of the place since the post-office was established there.

The birth of the beach goes back to 1891 when Bay Ridge, Md., still in existence for white persons exclusively, was the most populated bathing beach and summer resort in the East, a small Atlantic City, where colored persons were welcomed.

Transportation then was by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, since automobiles were practically un-

Jackson, Miss., News
September 16, 1939

FIRST NEGRO PARK SLATED AT VICKSBURG

MISSISSIPPI TO GET FIRST NEGRO PARK

VICKSBURG, Miss., Sept. — ANP—A 400-acre recreation park will be constructed on one of three sites near here, it was announced last week by L. J. Folse, white, executive director of the state planning commission. This will be the first park in this state for Negroes.

A 400-acre recreation park for negroes in Warren county is to be constructed within the near future, L. J. Folse, executive director of the state planning commission, announced Friday.

Mr. Folse said that the city officials of Vicksburg had three sites for the park under consideration, and that as soon as the park grounds were selected facilities would be installed.

When the park in Vicksburg is completed it will mark the construction of the first park in Mississippi for negroes, Mr. Folse explained. Another park for negroes, at Clinton, has been submitted to NYA officials in Washington. This park will consist of 150 acres.

"There is a great need of recreational facilities for negroes in Mississippi," the planning official said. "It would pay the state in dollars and cents to provide adequate recreational facilities for the colored, because there is little doubt but that the high homicide rate could be reduced by the right kind of leisure."

Last week, Mr. Folse, Carroll Wood, of the National Park Service; Chalmers Alexander, of the state planning commission; and J. L. Fortenberry, of the state park service, visited Vicksburg and completed negotiations for the park.

Representing Vicksburg were Col. Alexander Fitz-Hugh, civic leader; J. M. Buchanan, sheriff-elect; F. C. Wilcoxon, of the YMCA; and W. N. Minor, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

"There is a great need for recreational facilities for negroes in Mississippi," Folse said. "It would pay the state in dollars and cents to provide adequate recreational facilities for the colored, because there is little doubt but that the high homicide rate could be reduced by the right kind of leisure."

PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS- 1939

BLOCKING THE NEGROES

At first when we learned about the white people at Valley Park attempting to block the Negroes from enjoying their country club and grounds near Valley Park, we were a bit surprised, notwithstanding the fact that it had been rumored that some white citizens were opposed to Negroes using the Lake Hill Country club. But upon second thought we were not disturbed in mind or body over the un-American practice which showed itself upon the part of police officers and citizens of the community toward their fellowman, because after all, those people acted in accordance with their feelings which were expressive of their intelligence.

In securing these grounds for their amusement, the colored people acted in a normal way just as any group of American citizens would have acted under the circumstances. Here was a resort formerly occupied by white people, the environment shows that many thousands of dollars have been spent to erect the pavilions, swimming pools and other amusement features. But evidently the operation had become too expensive for the whites who had abandoned the project, and now the colored people, through the assistance of some of their white friends and business associates, had taken over the club grounds for their enjoyment and recreation. Under the Constitution and law of the United States they had a perfect right to invest their money, their time and their intelligence in something of this sort, just as the colored people in St. Louis have bought many of the churches formerly occupied by white people, as well as many of the residences in which they now live. Therefore, we say it was the natural thing for them to assume that they were within their rights.

As to their conduct on Decoration Day, it was above par, measured by the conduct of the white people of that community. The colored people were insulted by the so-called "intelligent" white people and they did not resent such insults by retaliating. If the Negroes had not been as thoughtful as they were and acted with a greater degree of intelligence than the white people did, there could easily have been some bloodshed.

Of course, as we stated in a recent issue of the Argus, we, as a group are becoming more court-minded than ever before and are looking to the judiciary to safeguard our rights as citizens. But in this case, we get little pleasure out of the thought that it may be necessary for us to go into the courts. We would rather hold to the hope that the white people of this particular community in St. Louis County will see the error of their ways and repent, and accord the colored people the same rights as citizens as they allocate to themselves. We further hope that these people will understand that we are living in a new day . . . the horse and buggy days are gone forever and it is a loss of time, energy and intelligence on the part of the white people of any section of this country, north or south, to try to make the Negro a slave again.

Such action as was seen on Forest avenue and at Valley Park last Tuesday looks like the fighting of the Civil War all over again which is certainly a loss of time after seventy-five years. Civilization is rapidly moving on and with its

MISSOURI

advancement the people must of necessity, advance also. During the past eight years we have seen more progress in the life of the people than had been made in the forty years before that time. White people have been brought to see that they are building backwards when they educate the whites and fail to educate the Negroes of any given community. The government has taken cognizance of the backwardness of the people, particularly those of the South, and has spent million and millions of dollars in improving the public roads, schools and many other public places. Therefore, we repeat, we are living in a new age and as a part of this nation, comprise one tenth of its population and it is just as impossible to stop our progress as it would be to dam the Mississippi River. Any attempt to stop the Mississippi can only be temporary because the stream is coming all the time.

WHITES STOP OPENING OF NEGRO PARK

ST. LOUIS, June 8—(AP)—
By spreading oil on the street and
barring the only entrance to Lake
Hill Amusement park, officials of
Valley park last Tuesday tempo-
rarily put a halt to the plan to
open Lake Hill as a recreation
and amusement center for Ne-
groes.

Comprising 36 acres, 16 of
which are in the corporate limits
of Valley Park, Lake Hill is own-
ed by a white contractor, George
Reeves, Jr. He said he had plan-
ned using the park as a picnic
ground for Negroes, and to give
them free use of the big swim-
ming pool which, not being op-
erated for profit, would not re-
quire a park permit. The dance
pavilion, he said, also was to be
opened for colored patronage.

At a recent meeting of the board
of aldermen, Reeves had outlined
plans for opening the park. La-
ter, however, petitions signed by
300 white residents asked offi-
cials to refuse permission to op-
erate the park for Negroes.

Chief of Police Jerome Wegge-
mann said that Forest avenue,
under repair, had been oiled Mon-
day, and he had placed a detail
of 10 police to see that the barri-
caes were not removed. Lake
Hill Amusement park, he said, had
no license to operate and is locat-
ed in a white settlement.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
April 5, 1939

Directors Return From Raleigh Meet

The negro recreation directors of the city recreation commission, Norman Watts, Fannie S. Sizemore, and Harry K. Parker, returned to the city last night from the National Conference of Negro Recreation Workers, which was held at St Augustine's college in Raleigh, April 2-4. The conference was directed by E. T. Attwell, director of the Bureau of Negro Work of the National Recreation association, which sponsored the convention.

The meeting was one of the largest of its kind ever held in the country, being attended by 86 delegates from 15 states and the District of Columbia, including Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. The meeting was featured by general discussion forums by the delegates, demonstrations of social recreation activities, and addresses and lectures by outstanding specialists in the recreation field. Among the special speakers were Charles Reed, director of the Field Work Division of the National Recreation association; J. T. Daves, personnel specialist of the Tennessee valley authority; William J. Trent, Jr., consultant on negro affairs of the United States department of interior; Dr. Clarence Cameron White, nationally-known concert violinist and recreational music specialist; Nell Hunter, state choral director of the federal music project of North Carolina; R. Johnson, negro director of the North Carolina department of public welfare and charities; and H. T. Collins of the Smithfield community center.

Negro Philanthropist Wills \$100,000 for N.J. Playground

MAYS LANDING, N.J.—Public school children of all races here will have a new playground soon, because the late John W. Underhill, a Negro philanthropist, willed more than \$100,000 to the township and school board for recreation purposes.

Work Projects Administration employees have been assigned to develop the land and install necessary equipment.

A part of the Underhill gift has already been used to improve Memorial Park. The trustees of the fund recently announced that most of the remainder has been allotted for the purchase of additional land and recreational facilities.

Started As Barber

Mr. Underhill started his career in Mays Landing as a barber. Later he opened a small candy, newspaper and novelty store. Most of his trade was drawn from school children in whom he kept an interest for their development toward useful citizens.

For years Mr. Underhill was the only Negro in town and won the respect of his fellow citizens for his modesty and studious demeanor.

He wisely invested his hard-earned money in real estate and amassed a fortune over a period of years.

When the philanthropist died in 1925, town authorities ordered engraved on his tombstone in Union Cemetery the words: "John W. Underhill, a public benefactor."

WPA in Recreation

The part which the WPA is taking in the Memorial Park recreation center is typical of its participation in the field of recreation in thousands of urban and rural communities throughout the country.

Community councils composed of individuals, civic and church organizations and fraternal bodies are back of the increasing number of play centers built and supervised by personnel of the WPA.

Gift Is Made To City By Race Citizen

John Underhill
Lauded "Public
Benefactor"

MAYS LANDING, N. J.—Public school children of all races here will have a new playground soon.

Thanks for this much needed recreation center go to the late John W. Underhill, a race philanthropist, who willed more than \$100,000 to the township and school board for recreation purposes.

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Millions Who Benefit by School Recreation Program Fight Slash

Handwritten: Daily Worker 6-14-39 New York City

COMMUNITY CENTER OFFICIALS DESCRIBE BENEFITS

By Esther Cantor

Maintenance of the school as a community center, with playgrounds, adult education and recreation, meeting places and the many activities participated in by young and old is demanded throughout the city.

The Bureau of Recreation and Community Activities of the Board of Education now provides:

1—427 playgrounds for children and young people, keeping them off crowded city streets.

2—125 community centers in schools opened for adult recreation and education in the evening.

3—338 summer vacation playgrounds, 24 high school athletic fields and 42 swimming pools for city children unable to go away during vacations.

4—Meeting places for boy scouts, parents' groups, labor union, social clubs (some of which formerly met in cellars) etc. for social, recreational and educational purposes.

All but the summer vacation activity will be eliminated unless Governor Lehman convenes a special session of the State Legislature to restore the cuts in State aid to education which the Republican legislators ruthlessly put through.

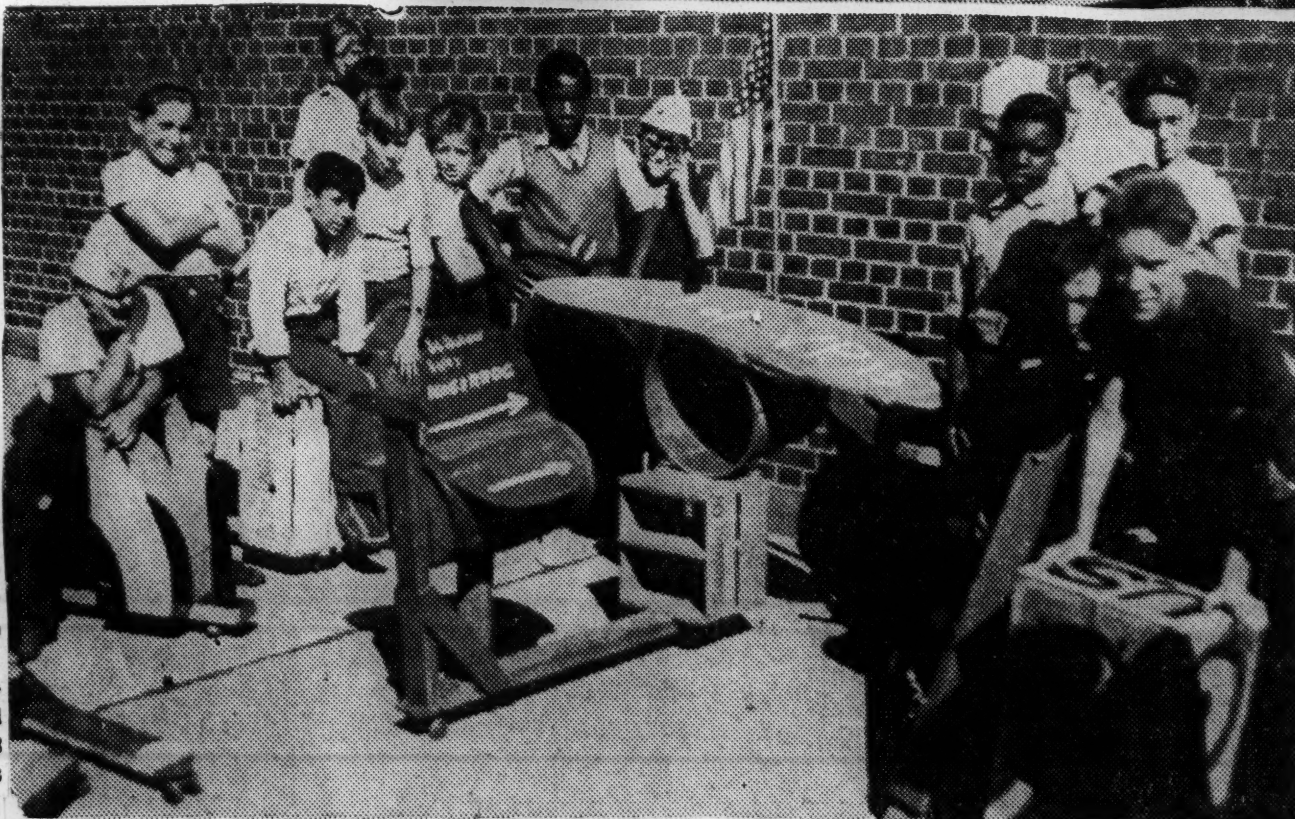
DESCRIBE BUREAU'S ACTIVITY

How the Bureau works, its varied activities, and its constructive contributions to young and old in New York City was described yesterday by Francis J. Brennan, assistant to director Mark A. McCloskey.

Of the many playgrounds throughout the city, open after school hours, 283 are supervised from 3 P.M. to 8 P.M. on five school days and from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. on Saturday. The others are open on an average of three days a week from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.

These playgrounds provide athletic activities, dancing, arts and crafts, dramatics, music, shop work—all under supervision. In the af-

Budget Cut Perils Schools



ternoon, the playgrounds are for children under 16, and later in the day, for the older young people.

All swimming pools in elementary and junior high schools are also opened for after school use. The senior high school swimming pools

can't be used until the summer because of the two and three sessions in each school.

OVER 2 MILLION ATTENDANCE

In the evenings, 125 school community centers, open from 7:30 P.M. to 10 P.M. from Oct. 15 to

April 30, were attended by a total of 2,231,173 persons during 1938. These centers are separate from the evening schools.

The community centers attempt to provide an informal educational and recreational program for the

—Photos Courtesy Board of Education

Handwritten: Daily Worker 6-14-39
G.O.P. slash in the State school budget means that these kids will be robbed of educational facilities and the school system placed in jeopardy. Recreational facilities, an important adjunct of modern education methods are certain to go by the board if the cuts are permitted to stand. Photos show scooter race at P.S. 99 where children built their own scooters in a summer playground supervised by the Bureau of Recreational and Community Activities of the Board of Education. Other picture shows children wearing in a playground where supervised Board of Education recreation is provided.

parents of the school children.

Again, the Board provides dramatics, athletics, art, painting, sculpturing, music, and any other type of recreation the people in the community are interested in.

The community school offers so-

cial activity, dances, entertainment and meeting places for clubs, community councils, parents' groups, boy scouts, girl scouts, naval reserves, and more loosely organized groups.

The community school program is closely linked with the WPA adult education, which provides the teachers. In the 125 centers, from one to 15 classes are conducted by the WPA is in progress every night.

EXTENSIVE SUMMER PROGRAM

A few days after the school year ends, on July 5 and through August 31, summer playgrounds are opened for school children and the pre-school child. The larger playgrounds are open until dark. There were 7,678,679 children and adults using the vacation playgrounds last year.

In addition, 24 high school athletic fields are open every day in the week during the summer from early morning to night, where children and young people can play tennis, handball, baseball and soft ball. They can also use the 42 swimming pools operated by the Board.

The summer playgrounds try to give the children the opportunity to develop a special bent or interest, which the pupils can't do during the school sessions because of program requirements.

Each of the playgrounds have kindergarten groups where harried mothers can place their youngsters who receive supervision similar to that obtained in the more progressive kindergartens.

CARE OF CHILDREN

Each kindergarten has a set of more than 500 blocks in 26 different shapes, paints and other constructive toys.

Recreational leaders, during the summer, take the children on trips, receiving the cooperation of other city departments.

One other phase of the Bureau's work is granting permits to organizations for use of the school buildings. These organizations assume responsibility for the care of the school.

In the past year, permits were granted for 108,367 of such meetings, with a total attendance of 2,231,706 persons. Those using the schools included Holy Name Societies, basketball teams, badminton clubs, labor unions, Catholic youth organizations, swimming teams, etc.

1,600 BUREAU WORKERS

There are 1,600 workers, most of them part-time, directly under the Bureau, helping to carry out the community program. In addition, 1,300 WPA workers are assigned for this work.

Brennan said that the threatened curtailment on WPA would mean retrenchment for part of the work. The cuts by the Republican state legislators means that only the summer playgrounds will be opened.

The community centers, recreational activities and athletic centers, "which play such an important part in the fight against delinquency must be abandoned and a healthy enterprise which competes with the streets, pool rooms and dance halls will be lost," the Board of Education pointed out in urging a special session.

Brennan said that there will be "no after school playgrounds, no community centers, no meeting places for parents and other groups" which the people in the city so determinedly demands unless funds are provided.

In the words of the Board of Education, elimination of these vital services is "indefensible pedagogically and socially."



A NEW CITY PLAYGROUND OPENED IN HARLEM DISTRICT

A view of the ceremony yesterday at 139th Street and Lenox Avenue

Bill Robinson, Dancer, Urged for Council; Morris Bids Harlem Elect Negro to Post

He used to dance in the beer gardens in Richmond for fun and he has been shot at four times and slashed with razors and knives on many occasions.

Now he has a big limousine with "6B" on the license plates; draws a large salary for dancing; never eats more than two quarts of ice cream and aids his fellow Negroes financially. His name is Bill (Bojangles) Robinson, and yesterday he was nominated for the City Council by Newbold Morris, president of that body.

At dedication ceremonies for the second of two new playgrounds opened in Harlem, Mr. Morris said that he would prefer to have Mr. Robinson not as an entertainer but in the City Council. Before 1,000 residents Mr. Morris declared:

"I believe you owe it to him to send him down to City Hall to represent you. We need a few good new Councilmen and we are going to get them next November."

The occasion was the opening of a recreation center at Lenox Avenue and 139th Street, built by the WPA and bought and developed jointly by the Park Department and the Board of education. The plot adjoins Public School 139 and provides facilities for handball, paddle tennis, basketball, roller skating and ice skating.

Mr. Morris, one of several speakers, hailed it and also the previously opened playground at 150th Street and Seventh Avenue, which is similarly equipped, as the means of providing every child with the same opportunity for recreation.

"Under our form of government, any one is a possible candidate for the Presidency of the United States," he said. "Therefore, we must be sure that every child has the same opportunity for decent environment."

At this point he referred to Bill Robinson, who at the first ceremony had insisted that he "would rather be a lamp-post in New York than Mayor anywhere else," as a likely person for the Council. He said he would rather have the tap-dancer not as a lamp-post, nor as an entertainer, but in the Council.

Some 3,000 persons participated in the ceremonies, 1,000 of them parading down Seventh Avenue and east to Lenox Avenue to music rendered by the Monarch Elks Band and the Park Department Band. Park Commissioner Robert Moses presided at both affairs.

Mr. Moses promised more playgrounds for the area, urging the residents of Harlem to get behind movements advocating the setting up of recreation centers. He warned that the only opportunity they would have for some time, in this, would be while the Harlem River Drive project was under way, adding that there would be two more playgrounds at points on the drive and also an esplanade, or walk, along the riverfront.

Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs, saying that the city had only given him enough money to plan playgrounds, revealed that he was going ahead speedily with the plans and that he hoped to have the support of the Board of Estimate when they were completed.

PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS - 1939

NORTH CAROLINA

Scenes at Rural Recreation Center in Carolina

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
June 29, 1939

Negro Beach Opens July 1

Daily Dispatch Bureau,
In the Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, June 29.—Opening of the bathing beach and recreational area developed exclusively for Negroes at Jones Lake, in Bladen county, has been set for July 1, Director R. Bruce Etheridge of the Department of Conservation and Development said today.

The area was purchased originally by the Farm Security Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, but it was recently leased to the Department of Conservation and Development by which it will be administered.

The development consists of the bathing beach, bath house with capacity of 400 persons at one time, bathing pier, sanitary facilities with running water, drinking fountains, picnic and parking areas, a concessions building and boats for hire.

No charge will be made for use of the picnic grounds or parking area, but a charge of 15 cents will be made for adults using the bath house, and of ten cents for children—these prices for those having their own bath suits. An additional charge of five cents will be made for soap and towel. Those not having their own suits may rent them at 25 cents, in addition to the other charges.

No one will be permitted to bring their own suits and put them on in cars or in other places than the bath house. Persons may wear bath suits to the lake, if covered with a rain coat or bath robe; but may not change into other clothing later except through use of the bath house.

"Purpose of the development is to provide clean, wholesome outdoor recreation for Negroes of the southeastern part of the State," said T. W. Morse, superintendent of State Parks in the Department. "We believe the Jones Lake area will fill a long felt want."



ABOVE ARE A FEW SCENES at the Bertie County Recreation Center that was dedicated July 4. This center is the first of its kind in North Carolina and many state officials and visiting friends were at the dedicatory exercises. At top left is a campfire scene which shows a group of 4-H club boys roasting weiners and singing. The boys spent five days at the center. While in camp the boys were taught many useful handicrafts. They are seen at top right canning their food under the supervision of J. C. Hubbard, farm agent.

Three of the six cabins and a part of the recreation hall are

shown at the lower right. These cabins are well constructed and will sleep from eight to twelve boys.

The executive committee of the Bertie County Recreation Center is shown in a meeting just after it was dedicated. They are left to right: the Rev. J. P. Law, the Rev. D. L. Simons, J. T. Mountain, Sr., Mrs. R. A. Luton, J. C. Hubbard, and Mrs. Lillian Andrews.

J. C. Hubbard, farm agent for Bertie County, who is in a large way responsible for the center is shown in the center picture.

PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS - 1939

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville, N. C., Times
June 1, 1939

Whiteville, N. C., News Reporter
June 8, 1939

NEGRO PARK TO BE DEDICATED HERE SATURDAY

Program Includes Talks By
Burdette, Weldon Weir
And Others.

Plans were being completed today for the formal opening and dedication Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock of Riverside park, the new negro recreation park on Walton street.

The park will be tendered the negroes of this community in short talks by city officials including City Manager P. M. Burdette, Weldon Weir, director of public works, and possibly by Mayor Holmes Bryson, although the death of Mayor Bryson's brother in Oklahoma made this somewhat uncertain.

It will be accepted by Dr. L. O. Miller, chairman of the Community Recreation League, successor of the Negro Welfare council; Prof. Albert Manley, on behalf of the schools, and M. R. Greenlee on behalf of the social agencies.

W. Norman Watts, recreation director and director of the park, will make announcements and will introduce representatives of various organizations who have been invited to the ceremony.

Music for the park opening will be furnished by the Stephens-Lee high school band and the junior drum and bugle corps.

Following the formal program the afternoon will be given over to various forms of recreational activities afforded by the facilities of the park.

Negro Resort To Be Ready For July 6th Celebration

Jones Lake, in Bladen county, where the federal government has just finished a \$25,000 development project, transforming it into one of the most delightful recreation centers devoted entirely and exclusively to negroes, will be opened to the negro public in ample time for the July 6th celebration, officials explained the first of the week.

Everything will be in readiness to open the negro resort by July 1st, and a large crowd of 6th of July celebrants are expected to flock to the new resort on that date.

The new resort is one of the most complete in the South. Situated on the banks of a beautiful lake which furnishes maximum possibilities for both bathing and fishing, Jones Lake has by reason of its recent development become everything that the negroes could desire in the way of picnic grounds.

Adequate bath house facilities, hot and cold running water, and every convenience has been afforded the negro patrons of this resort.

The bathhouse itself is 91x26 feet, containing both men and women's dressing rooms, complete with toilets, showers, lavatories, and individual dressing rooms. The building, which is rustic throughout, has running water, electric lights, and all the modern facilities. It contains a spacious lobby where the picnickers may store their baskets while enjoying a swim in the lake.

Eight picnic shelters on the spacious grounds along the lake shore, each connected by sand clay walkways, add to the pleasures to be found at Jones Lake. Down near the shore of the lake, there is a concession house, where candy, cold drinks, sandwiches and other things will be sold. In this building, which is separate from the main building, there is a sandwich shed where the picnickers may prepare their own lunches.

A 450 foot board walk and pier extends from the bathhouse, by the concession house, far out over the water. Along the picnic grounds are 20 picnic benches, and in the lake itself, 13 fishing boats, with possibly as many more soon to be available, have been furnished for the negroes. There is a boat house to take care of the boats out over the water.

Something like 250,000 fish have been put into the lake during the past two years, which should render the resort ideal for fishing. The lake itself contains 227 acres, with a 1/4 mile developed beach.

Water supply for the resort is furnished through a 6,000 gallon elevated storage tank. Toilet facilities for the general public exclusive of those found in the bath house are found in the public toilets.

Plans are being developed for the erection of 70x60 foot recreational and dance hall, and construction is expected to be started on this building sometime in the near future.

Lewis Dorsett is the project manager, and E. W. Kerr, is engineer. The project itself was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation division. The N. C. Department of Conservation and Development will maintain a supervision over the resort when completed.

Athletic Director Of Negro Recreation Division Quits Job

The negro recreation advisory committee of the local recreation commission met Friday evening at the home of its chairman, Rev. R. T. Weatherby, and received the resignation of William Thomas, athletic director of the negro recreation division, who has asked to be released from his local post September 15.

Thomas is a native of Minneapolis, Minn., where he did recreation work and studied at the University of Minnesota and Northwestern university. He graduated from A and T. college, where he later assumed duties as assistant football coach. Thomas has built up the summer municipal athletic program for negroes to one of the best in the state. Thomas will take a position with the sanitation department of Chicago, Ill.

The advisory committee considered several applicants for the position, all of whom were rejected except Clarence M. Palmer, negro recreation director of the Durham recreation commission, who the committee recommended to Daniel R. Neal and the local recreation committee for appointment. Palmer is a graduate of North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham, where he was a star in boxing, basketball, track and football. After graduation, he began work with the Durham recreation department as athletic director at the city playgrounds, later as head life guard at the Hillside pool of Durham, and athletic director of the Durham CCC camp. He has had special training in recreation institutes at Temple university.

Mr. Neal, director of recreation for Greensboro, is expected to act on the advisory committee's recommendation the first part of next week. If Palmer is appointed, he will take the athletic post temporarily until the annual examinations for recreation department positions next May, when all men qualified for the positions will be examined for permanent appointment.

The advisory committee at its meeting yesterday also considered the 1939-40 negro recreation budget and made further recommendations to the recreation commission and the city manager to purchase mimeograph machine, auditorium chairs, cooking and serving equipment and furniture for the new meeting room and lobby being erected at the Windsor center. Recommendations from the committee for improvements included landscaping of lawn at Windsor center, lights for the front of the building, and lavatory facilities for the Nocho park picnic grounds.

Negro Athletic Director Is Named By Commission

**Clarence Palmer, Jr., Durham, to Serve In City
Until Open Examinations Are Conducted**

The negro division of the Greensboro recreation commission announced today that Clarence Palmer, Jr., athletic director with the Durham recreation commission the past five years, has been appointed temporarily to succeed William Thomas, resigned, as negro athletic director here. The appointment extends to next May when open examinations for the place will be held.

Palmer is a graduate of North Carolina college for Negroes at Durham where he was an outstanding athlete. He will assume his duties here October 1.

Thomas left today for Chicago, Ill., where he has accepted an appointment with the municipal sanitation department. He is a graduate of A. and T. college.

Outline of the negro recreation program for the coming year was also announced today by the negro division. Fall activities will include touch football and volleyball leagues for boys and men, men's recreation club, fencing, boxing, and indoor softball. The winter program will feature midget, junior boys, men's and women's basketball leagues, kiddies boxing tourney, men's inter-city boxing matches, men's smokers, and whist, bridge, and checker tourneys, second annual state basketball championships, and father-son banquet. The spring season will bring boys and men's week, spring tennis and softball tourneys, city-wide marble tourney, and third annual golden buckle boxing tournament.

The negro municipal athletic association will strengthen its organization during the coming year to include lay committees and athletic boards to promote and sponsor the athletic program.

Softball was the most popular athletic activity for the summer. A total attendance of 10,719 was reported for the diamond sport, including 12,707 participants and 4,012 spectators. The Greensboro softballers met teams from Roanoke, Va., Thomasville, Durham and High Point.

Regular softball leagues included loops for men, women, and junior boys. Men's softball was organized into the National and American Leagues. The Ashe Street Taxi and S. H. Kress teams tied for first place in the national loop, winning seven games and losing one. The Ned Cohen diamond aggregation topped the American league, losing only one game while winning nine. The Nocho Sluggers women's team won seven games and lost one to top the closely contested women's loop. Junior boys league during the spring and summer were also popular. The J. C. Price Juniors tied with the Nocho Tigers nine to take

of the Y. W. C. A., and W. Norman Watts, and his wife.

Several members of the faculty and approximately 30 students took part in the discussion. Members of the faculty present were Miss Dorothy Fisher, director of the inter-racial group, Dr. and Mrs. Frank C. Foster, Miss Margaret Foreman, dean of women, Miss Elizabeth Chapin, Miss Elah Cowart, Dr. Hilda Weiss and Miss Anne Hoffman. Miss Frances Reeves, chairman of the group, presided.

the summer boys title, while the Hi-Y won nine games, while losing none to top the spring boys softball loop.

Among the other popular events was the tennis tournament. George Simpkins, Jr. and Betty Taylor won the junior and women's singles matches, respectively. Horseshoe tournaments were held between the playgrounds resulting in the championship won by Frank Lewis and Harvey Irving, men's champs, and J. C. Cooke, and Paul Martin, boys title winners. Among other activities of the summer were anniversary week field day, marble tournament. The Greensboro negro golf team toppled the linksmen of the Durham recreation department. The negro athletic staff directed by Thomas included Eugene Levette, boys athletic supervisor, L. C. Nixon and Claude Taylor.

Asheville, N. C., Times
November 8, 1939

WATTS, NEGRO RECREATIONAL HEAD, SPEAKS

**Talks At Chapel Period At
Asheville Normal.**

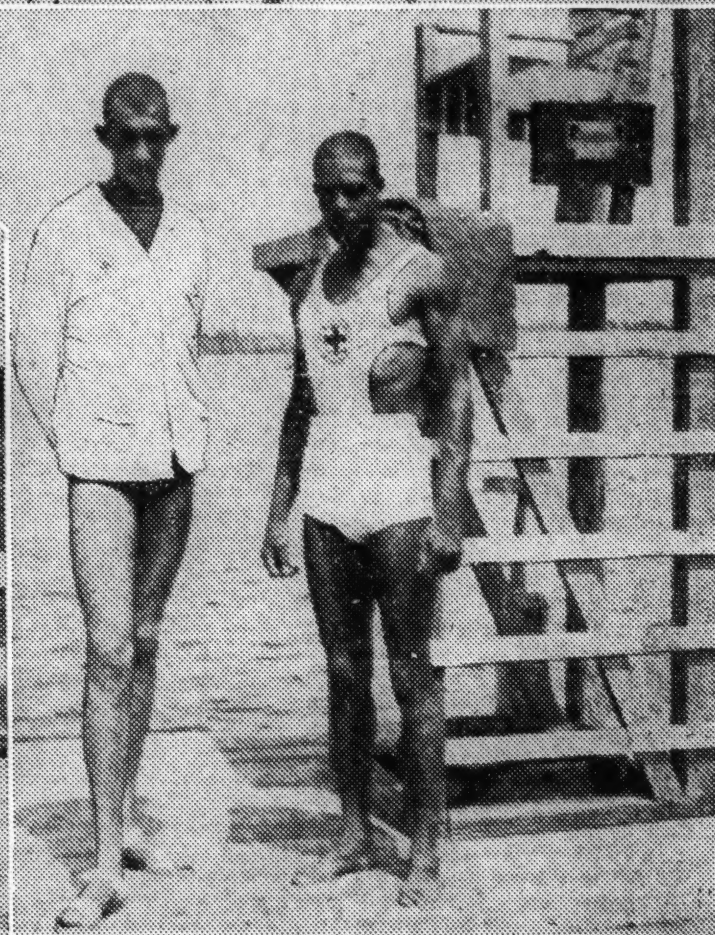
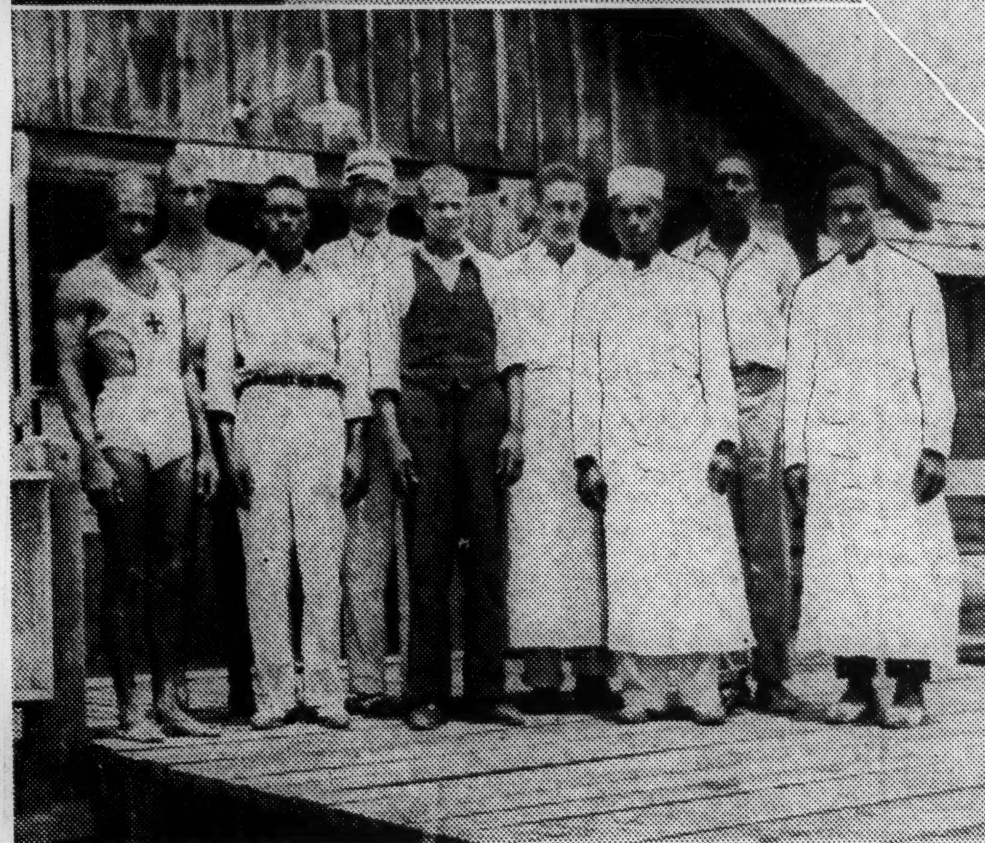
W. Norman Watts, negro, director of the Community Recreation and Social Service leagues, was the speaker at a chapel session today at the Asheville Normal and Teachers college.

The speaker outlined qualities essential for a recreational director and stated that, through leisure, will come the new American culture. Among the qualities necessary to make a good recreational worker, he brought out, are wisdom, knowledge of the community, knowing how to use meager materials, patience, tolerance, sense of humor, emotional maturity and happiness in the work. Several negro leaders in social service work took part in a discussion of inter-racial problems with members of the inter-racial and inter-faith groups of the college last night at the recreational cabin.

Negroes taking part in the discussion were Julia Spaulding, secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley branch

Carolina Recreational Center and Its Personnel

PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS - 1939



SCENES OF JONES Lake Recreation Center, located near Elizabethtown, N. C., thought to be the only State park for colored in the South, and which is manned entirely by colored.

Top, left: The board walk leading from the bath house to the pier by the concession stand.

Top, right: A splendid view of the beautiful lake and area surrounding it.

Bottom, left: Personnel of the center, front row, left to right, Thomas E. Conway, life guard; Oscar McDowell, Otis Moore, Franklin McNeil, and Fred Brown. Back row, Lemuel Delaney, another life guard; C. Manuel McCall, manager; James A. Lacewell and Roosevelt Munn.

At bottom right is shown Conway and Delaney standing ready for action.

North Carolina Sponsors First State Park for Race in South

Jones Lake Area Recreational Center Is Well Appointed and Managed By Expert Personnel

(Special to Journal and Guide)
ELIZABETHTOWN, N. C.— Within recent years North Carolina has been placed at the head of the list of all southern states in educational and industrial opportunities offered members of the race.

Now, the famous Tarheel State has another "first" as it leads out with the first State park for Negroes in the South, and one of the three in the United States, in the

Jones Lake Area Recreational Area, located in Bladen County, just four miles out of Elizabethtown.

The center is operated by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, directly under the supervision of the forestry division, branch of State Parks, and manned entirely by a staff of well qualified colored men, with C. Manuel McCall, manager; James A. Lacewell, manager of the concession stand, and Thomas E. Conway and Lemuel Delaney, life

guards. The land surrounding the lake belongs to the U. S. Government. The project was developed under the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation and Land Utilization, after which it was turned over to the State.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS

On the recreation area are found 12 spacious buildings. Among them are several picnic booths, with rustic tables and seats, a boat house, concession stand, rest rooms for both men and women, bath houses and a board walk leading from the bath house to the pier. All of the buildings are electrically lighted, have modern plumbing throughout, with the bath house equipped with showers for both men and women, and drinking

fountains conveniently located about the grounds.

There is ample parking space, enough to take care of two hundred cars. Within the next two or three weeks, stone ovens and barbecue pits will be built in the picnic area to accommodate picnickers desiring to spend a day of rest in some quiet spot with all the conveniences of the city.

Coupled with all this is the opportunity for boating and swimming, rated the superior to any in the State for members of the race. The lake, surrounded by a beautiful and well-kept beach, has been recently stocked with a large supply of fresh water fish, such as rainbow trout and black bass, which will afford plenty of sport for the Isaac Waltons within the next two years.

NORTH CAROLINA

Added to this is the wild life surrounding the lake, including such game as turkeys, deer and quail, with several wild game sanctuaries.

The Jones Lake Recreation Area is indeed a demonstration of the fact that North Carolina thinks of the welfare of all of its citizens physically, as well as intellectually and spiritually.

Greensboro, N. C., News

August 29, 1939

WRITES FOR MAGAZINE.

An article on "The Problem of Public Bathing for Negroes in the South," written by Harry K. Parker, director of the negro division of the Greensboro recreation commission, appeared in the August issue of "Beach and Pool", national recreation magazine. He pointed out the significance of architectural planning in consideration of a pool as based upon observation and experience with outdoor pools for negroes in North Carolina.

Greensboro, N. C., Record

September 25, 1939

Negro Center Has Expansion

Facilities Enlarged For Recreation Work

The citizen's council of the Windsor community center for negroes in the city has constructed and furnished two new rooms at the center during the past four weeks. With the approval of the city recreation department, headed by Daniel R. Neal, the staff and council removed swimming pool basket checking rooms in the front of the building and replaced them with lobby and conference rooms.

The construction work, which was under the direction of John L. Perry and Cicero McCollum, Windsor center maintenance workers, was done by workers of the center, including Fannie Neal, Parthenia Boyd, William Foushee, Jasper Cherry, William Hooper and Eugene Levette. These leaders painted the building, sanded floors and did wrecking and construction work with materials purchased jointly by the city recreation department and citizens' council.

Furnishings for the new facilities were provided by the council and through donations from local merchants. The council's committee, in charge of furnishings for the new rooms at the center, includes William Eberhardt, chairman, Willie McLaughlin, F. A. Hargett, Perry J. Brown and William E. Hooker.

Plan Open House.

The week of October 8 the Windsor community center council will hold open house at the center, dur-

ing which the public will be invited to inspect the new facilities and register for fall recreation activities. Special events will be held all week.

The second annual staff planning conference will be held at the center October 2-3, when the staff will outline the schedule of activities for the coming season. Among the events to be emphasized this year are the weekly meetings of men's and women's recreation clubs Monday and Tuesday evenings. These groups will be in charge of Clarence M. Palmer, newly appointed athletic and assistant director of the negro recreation division, who will report for duty October 1, from his present post with the Durham recreation commission.

The general schedule of activities, announced today by the center, will also include Wednesday evenings for older boys' athletics and physical activities, music and dramatics on Thursdays, and social recreation and special events each Friday evening. Junior activities will be held daily from 2:30 to 7 p. m., with girls' activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and boys' groups on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Much attention will be given this year at the center to lay leadership and citizen's committees, it was announced by Harry K. Parker, director of the center. Parker said that no means of support and cooperation for the development of the city-wide recreation program is more essential and necessary than that of lay leadership and organized citizen interest. The leading citizen board for the past several years in negro public recreation has been the advisory recreation committee, including Rev. R. T. Weatherby, chairman, Martha Sebastian Gortlegh, Geneva Collins, Dr. D. D. Jones, Dr. F. D. Bluford, Dr. George Simkins, Waddy L. Jones, A. H. Peeler and J. A. Tarpley.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
February 3, 1939

LOCAL RECREATION INSTITUTE CLOSSES

Dancing And Dancing Classes
On City-Wide Scale Urged
By Miss Ethel Bowers

If public and semi-public organizations do not provide attractive forms of recreation for young persons, the young persons will go where they can get what they want, and perhaps will learn undesirable activities along with them, Miss Ethel Bowers, of the National Recreation association, emphasized last night at the final session of a recreation institute which she conducted here.

Dancing and dancing classes were highly recommended by Miss Bowers, who said etiquette as well as dance steps should be taught. She said a city-wide dance ought to be sponsored every week-end.

For young persons who do not care to dance, or don't know how, Miss Bowers suggested a series of "open house" parties.

"Social recreation teams"—groups to sponsor parties—were proposed as a means of providing an outlet for the leadership abilities of persons 15 to 25 years old.

Miss Bowers suggested that "social recreation teams" consist of a master of ceremonies, an active games leader, a musical games leader, a quiet games leader, and a song leader.

This afternoon at 3:30 o'clock the recreation expert will meet the leaders of Girl Guardian clubs in the council chamber of the city hall.

Tonight at 7:30 o'clock Miss Bowers will lead a conference on Negro education at the North Carolina College for Negroes.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
April 2, 1939

Recreation Conference.
A conference of Negro recreational workers, sponsored by the National Recreation Association, will be held at the Negro First Baptist Church this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock and continued tomorrow and Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock each day in the Bishop Tuttle School. E. T. Atwell of New York, head of the Negro division of the Association, is in charge.

Greensboro N. C. Record
March 29, 1939

Negroes Asking For Playground

Jonesboro Community
Program Recommended

At its special meeting held at the Windsor center last night at 8 o'clock the negro advisory committee of the Greensboro recreation commission voted unanimously to recommend to the commission that a children's playground for negroes be established in the Jonesboro community on Raleigh street.

The request to open the new playground area came from the Jonesboro community center council, headed by Arthur Lee and C. A. Holt, to the advisory committee. The recommendation will be presented to the city through the recreation commission at its regular monthly meeting next Thursday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock in the council chamber of the city hall.

Officers Elected.

The meeting also featured the election of officers for the year. Officers elected were Rev. R. T. Weatherby, chairman; Martha Sebastian Gorleigh, vice chairman; Harry K. Parker, secretary; and Dr. George Simpkins, treasurer. Other members of the committee are A. H. Peeler, Waddy L. Jones, Dr. D. D. Jones, Dr. F. D. Bluford, and Prof. J. A. Tarpley. Herbert S. Falk, chairman of the local recreation commission, recently added two women members to the committee, namely Geneva Collins, supervisor of the L. Richardson Memorial hospital, and Martha Sebastian Gorleigh, director of the Carnegie negro library.

Rev. R. T. Weatherby, chairman pointed out to the group several outstanding activities which were being conducted by the negro recreation department during the year and complimented the staff on a well-rounded program and complete method of interesting laymen, and getting the program to the public.

New ex-officio members of the committee added were the chairmen of the various negro community center councils. Those members representing the various councils were William Eberhardt, Arthur Lee, and R. A. Johnson, chairman of the Windsor, Jonesboro, and

Handcraft centers, respectively. The committee also made plans for the co-ordination and centralization of all negro lay recreation committees in the city, with representation of the central advisory committee on each center council, and a delegate from each council on the central committee, making possible an effective means of obtaining city-wide, organized organization of negro citizens in the promotion of public recreation in Greensboro.

Yesterday morning the boxing tournament of the Windsor community center council met in conference with Daniel R. Neal, director of recreation for the city, at the city hall to make plans for sponsorship of the second annual Golden Buckle World War Memorial stadium in June. Plans were made for joint sponsorship of the coming outstanding ring event by the Greensboro Exchange club and the Windsor center council. Negro boxers from all sections of North Carolina will compete in the annual tourney, which will be held for the benefit of the girl scout camp and the Windsor community center.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
April 21, 1939

Negro Recreation Leader to Speak

A large number of white and negro citizens are expected to attend the mass meeting tonight, which is being sponsored by the Greensboro recreation commission.

The feature of the meeting will be an address by E. T. Atwell, director of the bureau of negro work of the National Recreation association, who will address the meeting on the subject of "Community Recreation". Daniel R. Neal, director of recreation for the city, will preside at the meeting, which will be held in Guilford county courtroom No. 1. All interested citizens, including community and public leaders, parents, social workers and teachers are invited to attend the meeting. The recreation commission, in its regular meeting yesterday afternoon at the city hall council chamber, heard and consulted with Atwell on the recreation survey being made and needed improvements in the public recreation program in the city.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
April 17, 1939

Negro Director Observes Work

National Recreation
Leader Is In City

At the various negro recreation centers in the city six community center councils held meetings during the past week in preparation for the visit this week of E. T. Atwell, director of the Bureau of Negro Work of the National Recreation association, who is in the city this week to study and observe the negro public recreation program, and assist in the organization of citizen groups.

Under the sponsorship of the negro community center councils, the negro recreation department will conduct the first annual city-wide hobby show to be held at the Windsor center auditorium during the week of April 24. The show will open next Sunday at 2 o'clock.

The public is invited to attend. The exhibits will include all types of individual hobbies and group craft projects. Expected to be displayed in the show is a native African exhibit by Dr. Henry Nau, president of Lutheran college.

The negro recreation workers met last Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock to complete plans for the activities at the four negro playgrounds at Price, Jonesboro, Nocho Park, and Cotton-Newby. Announcements were made for city men's and women's and school softball leagues, under the direction of Norman Watts Eugene Levette, and Fannie S. Sizemore, assisted by Parthenia Boyd and J. A. Streater. William Foushee, boxing director announced a meeting of the city-wide negro boxing club next Wednesday night at the Windsor center, when training schedule will be made in preparation for the second annual Golden Buckle boxing tournament to be held at Memorial stadium, May 26, 27, 28.

Late Saturday afternoon the city school marble tournament was held at Nocho Park. Wilbur Brown, of Jonesboro, defeated Fred Harvey, of Washington Street, for the city title.

Asheville N. C. Citizen
April 29, 1939

NORMAN WATTS IS NAMED DIRECTOR OF NEGRO RECREATION

Norman Watts, assistant director of negro recreation in Greensboro, has been named director of negro recreation in Asheville to succeed Julius C. Highe, who resigned. Dr. L. O. Miller, of the Negro Welfare council, said yesterday. He is expected to report May 8.

Wilmington, N. C. News
May 10, 1939

NEGRO RECREATION SUPPORT IS URGED

Meeting Of Interested Citizens Is Addressed By L. T. Blackus

L. T. Blackus, state supervisor of WPA negro recreational programs, speaking at a meeting last night in the unemployment compensation commission office, declared "Wilmington negro recreational programs can progress no farther until the city's entire negro population pledges its cooperation and support."

"Recreation is as important as hospitals, schools, and churches," he said.

The meeting, which was attended by about 35 persons who are interested in and are connected with negro recreational work, was held in an effort to stimulate the public's interest in the negro recreational project.

Miss Flora B. Miller, city-county recreation director, and Miss Anne Tillinghast, district recreational director, also spoke, enlarging on the views presented by Blackus. They said negro recreation in Wilmington has not been functioning successfully because of a lack of proper leadership and guidance.

An effort is to be made, the sponsors of the program said last night, to place the negro program under the leadership and guidance of a negro, in order that the project may progress.

John Norman was appointed temporary chairman of the recreational council. He is to call a meeting of negro citizens in the near future in order to discuss the problem and arrive at a solution whereby the project can go forward.

Greensboro, N. C. Record
June 7, 1939

Mayor Lewis to Address Negro Recreation Staffs At Opening of Institute

Mayor Ralph Lewis will make the chief address at the formal opening of the annual negro playground workers institute tonight at 8:30 o'clock at the Windsor Community center auditorium. The occasion will be the beginning of the three-day playground staff planning conference, which will continue through June 10.

The brief program tonight will include remarks by members of the recreation commission, city council and negro recreation council. Herbert S. Falk, chairman of the Greensboro recreation commission, will introduce Mayor Lewis. The meeting will also be attended by the staff of the negro division of the recreation commission and the five negro community center councils.

A. H. Peeler will again direct the three-day playground institute and supervise the summer program. Assisting will be a staff composed of Vance Chavis, J. C. Price, playground director; J. S. Leary, director of Nocho park; Franklin Brown, director of Cotton-Newby playground; Maggie Holley, Kathryn Robinson and L. C. Nixon, assistant playground directors.

A broad recreation program for children and adults will be provided at each outdoor play center, including music, drama, handicraft, athletics, physical activities, nature, and social activities. The grounds will be open for eight weeks beginning next Monday. Special weeks on the grounds will be celebrated.

The three-day institute will treat all phases of playground work including administration, organization, program of activities, leadership, reports, publicity, and program planning. The second session of the institute will open at 9 a. m. tomorrow.

Greensboro, N. C. Record
September 4, 1939

Negro Playground Report Shows Large Participation

Total Attendance of 143,152 For Summer Shown For Period, During Which New Unit Is Added To System Maintained By Municipality

According to an announcement today by the negro division of the Greensboro recreation commission, the negro playgrounds reported a total attendance of 143,152 children and adults for the 1939 season from June 15 to August 15. A new playground surrounding the Jonesboro school was added to the playground program this year, which also included Nocho Park, Cotton-Newby, and J. C. Price play centers.

J. C. Price playground reported the largest attendance with 39,788 participants and 12,196 spectators, making a total of 52,004 for the summer, followed by Nocho park with 35,768, including 29,490 participants and 12,558 spectators. Jonesboro had an attendance of 34,996 and Cotton-Newby 20,384.

The attendance by boys was the highest for the summer, totaling 52,468, followed by girls with an attendance of 39,258. A total of 12,398 adults attended the playground activities. Price playground again led in the children's activities with a report of 22,536 boys and 14,852 girls. Nocho Park reported the highest attendance for adults with 7,194 and spectators with a total of 12,558.

Popular Activities.

Most popular activities at the play centers were softball, horseshoes, swings, sand play, tennis, boxing and table games at Price, while at Jonesboro softball, social activities, low organized games, horseshoes, and arts and crafts were the leading activities. Nocho park featured boys' handicraft, tennis, horseshoes, volley ball and kiddies' clubs. Cotton-Newby's leading activities were softball, which was the most popular activity on all the grounds, boxing, wrestling, quiet games, and community sings.

The attendance at 23 special events at the four playgrounds was from the Guilford county WPA recreation project, including W. E. the facilities at the Windsor center at Nocho park featured most of the special events.

The week of August 12, celebrating vetter and Raymond Williams.

Playground activity groups will be taken inside to the Windsor center for seasonal activities during the winter, these groups to remain organized the year-round.

the second birthday of the Windsor center, saw special celebrations by the playgrounds, which included all-activity days, talent amateur show, and art and handicraft exhibit sponsored by the negro division of the local juvenile court, headed by William Eberhardt, which awarded trophies and prizes. Nocho park won the contest with the construction and exhibit of a water wheel.

The director of negro recreation, H. K. Parker, in his report, appealed to the city for establishment of permanent year-round playgrounds, such as those operated in many cities. "The 10 weeks' city playground program from June 15 to August 15 was entirely too short to meet the play needs of children who risk their lives playing throughout the busy streets of the city," he wrote.

Parker also reported the need for appropriation for specialized leaders in music, dramatics and handicraft.

A staff of temporary summer workers made possible the successful 1939 playground season. The directors included A. H. Peeler, supervisor of playgrounds, J. S. Leary, Nocho park director, Vance Chavis, Price supervisor, and Franklin Brown, of Cotton-Newby. Leaders in girls' and women's activities were Fannie S. Sizemore, Maggie Holley and Kathrine Robinson. The

city staff was assisted by workers from the Guilford county WPA recreation project, including W. E. Hooker, J. A. Streater, Parthenia Boyd, William Foushee, Fannie Neal, Jasper Cherry, Eugene Le-

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
February 2, 1939

New Negro Recreation Building Opened Here

Community Center Provided
in Structure Located
Off Evins Street

The negro recreation building off Evins street in the northern section of the city, construction of which was completed recently with the exception of some minor details, has been opened for use, it was learned yesterday from officials of the Negro Civic league, local sponsor of the project.

Construction of the building was undertaken as an NYA project, with the NYA contributing two-thirds of the cost and the local sponsor the remainder.

The building consists of a large auditorium-gymnasium, measuring 70 by 54 feet, and six smaller rooms in the basement. It is to be used as a community center where various activities of negro citizens may be carried on.

Debt Of \$600

A debt of \$600 remains to be paid by the local sponsor on construction costs, and members of the executive committee of the Negro Civic league, consisting of Dr. J. B. Walker, Dr. G. T. Mansel, Dr. T. K. Gregg, Dr. W. M. Porter and Lucinda Johnson, have given their note to guarantee payment.

Pending liquidation of the debt, the auditorium-gymnasium is now being used as a means of raising revenue for application toward the debt. Dr. Porter, chairman of the athletic program of the Negro Civic league, already has staged a boxing program and plans to hold other athletic events there.

Carver high school and the city basketball teams have fitted up the gymnasium for the playing of basketball, have been granted joint control over all basketball games staged there until they have been reimbursed for money spent in equipping the gymnasium. Prof. Theo Cain of Carver high school faculty is chairman of the joint basketball committee.

Equipment Needed

Officials of the Civic league stated there was much need for other athletic equipment in order that a well-rounded athletic program may be carried out, and appealed to the public for contributions of either money or equipment.

The playground and park, on which the building is located, are a

part of the city parks system, and the playground is under the supervision of Mrs. S. N. Burts, superintendent of city playgrounds.

Mrs. Burts announced that the playground is open from 3 to 6 p.m. daily under the supervision of Othella Gray, WPA recreation worker. Also attached to the recreation staff at the recreation building are James

Simmons and Louie Gist.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
June 12, 1939

Set Colored Meet

The Greater Greenville Negro Recreation League will meet at the Phyllis Wheatley center tonight at 8 o'clock to discuss plans for a six week training course to be offered recreation workers.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
September 28, 1939

New State Park Being Planned Near Beaufort

Beaufort, Sept. 23.—What state park authorities describe as "the best beach anywhere this side of Florida" will be opened near here next year when Hunting Island, previously inaccessible except by boat or airplane, is connected with a huge bridge and causeway with neighboring sea islands.

Approximately 14 miles east-south-east of this picturesque little seaport, Hunting Island forms a cape at the southern entrance to St. Helena Sound. It should be the nearest Atlantic coast playground to such large interior cities as Atlanta and Chattanooga.

Although the island will be developed chiefly as a state park, there will be a section for private cottages which Director R. A. Walker of the South Carolina park service said will be planned as a "model beach resort."

The park service, Walker said, "is consulting with a landscape archi-

tect on a plan that will prevent anything that there would be overnight such haphazard development as is facilities at first for about 100 negroes and 200 white persons. "We

He explained that although no part also expect to be able to accommodate the island could be sold to private date about 1,000 bathers at each of individuals one mile of beach and the recreation areas at one time," he enough acreage for approximately 200 said.

lots 100 feet square would be set aside for long-term leases by those wishing to build cottages. The lease price of each lot would be \$50 a year and the plans for the cottages would have to be approved by the park service.

The island area approximates 6,000 acres with the marshes but high land on the island proper amounts to only about 2,200 acres. No one has lived on Hunting Island since the United States lighthouse service abandoned a lighthouse there several years ago, but the structure still stands and went with the property.

Praising the character of the beach, Walker said "it is about 300 yards wide at low tide and is hard and smooth with a gentle slope which always makes for safety."

Hunting Island, fronting the Atlantic for four and a half miles, was a gift to Beaufort county from James M. Cameron of Harrisburg, Pa., and Dr. Arthur E. Elting of Albany, N. Y. The county deeded it in turn to the state on condition that it be developed as a park.

A \$450,000 bridge is being built by the county between Hunting and St. Helena Island with the aid of federal funds and this probably soon will be completed. The island will remain inaccessible to motor traffic, however, until the completion of two connecting causeways which the park service and the county will build with the expected help of the state highway department.

"While the island itself should be accessible to traffic by the summer of 1940," Walker said, "it will be the summer of 1941 before the recreation-al features will be ready for use."

Necessary clearing work—the island is 100 per cent wooded with virgin timber of slash pine, live oak and palmetto, Walker said—is already underway, a CCC camp having been placed on the island in 1938 for the purpose.

Separate recreational areas for whites and negroes will be developed, Walker said. Besides cabins, bath-houses and picnic shelters for both races, there will be an overnight inn for negroes.

"Everything will be designed for expansion," Walker said in explain-

Knoxville Tenn. Journal
January 22, 1939

Negroes Of Knoxville Form Body To Promote Recreation

There has recently been organized among Negroes in Knoxville a recreation council, called the Citizens' Recreation Council. The body is truly a council in that its membership is composed of various organizations of the city which are interested either in the promotion of recreation, or the pursuit of it, or both. A complete roster of organizations will be made public at a later date.

Officers of the Council are Dean Hardy Liston, president; Miss M. E. Smith, vice-president; Miss M. L. Divers, secretary; Miss L. R. McKinney, assistant secretary; the Rev. Mr. B. B. Evans, treasurer, and a board of directors which includes these officials and the chairmen of committees.

To date, the council has had two enthusiastic and well attended meetings, and is engaged in activities which it is hoped will bring early improvements in some aspects of recreation in the city. For the stated purpose of this organization is:

1. To promote recreational and cultural activities for all ages and both sexes in the community.
2. To develop interest and participation in character building programs and community betterment movements among citizens of this city.
3. To develop greater public appreciation and support of recreation and leisure-time activities.
4. To interpret to the community the value and significance of recreation and leisure-time activities.
5. To study interests and needs in this field, and to seek provisions for meeting them.
6. To promote cooperation and coordination among institutions and organizations engaged in recreation and leisure-time projects.
7. To serve and merit the cooperation and support of all agencies in developing this work.

Winchester, Tenn. Herald
January 12, 1939

TVA To Form State Park For Negroes

The lease of 350 acres of land in the Chickamauga reservoir area to the Tennessee State Department of Conservation for development as a State park for Negroes was announced today by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The tract is located on the southern shore of the proposed Chickamauga Lake about eight miles from Chattanooga near the village of Bartlebaugh.

The Authority contributes the use of the land, on certain stated conditions, subject to requirements for reservoir purposes, for a 15-year period, the lease being automatically renewable. TVA will also cooperate in the development of plans for the park. The Tennessee State Department of Conservation will assume the maintenance.

The construction necessary to development will be done by the CCC under the supervision of the National Park Service. The 350-acre tract includes within its bounds two hills with an attractive cove between. It is proposed to provide areas for picnicking facilities for boating and other lake front activities. It is expected that work will begin sometime before spring.

The Authority also announced a license agreement with the Tennessee State Department of Conservation granting exclusive fishing, boating, and swimming privileges to the State for the Cove Lake State Park in the Norris

reservoir area. This agreement is an extension of the Authority's former lease agreement, which covered only use of the Authority's land surrounding Cove Lake. Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
March 3, 1939

NEGRO RECREATION HEAD CENTERS HERE WITH TVA

Ernest T. Atwell, director of colored work of the National Recreation association, New York City, was here yesterday for several hours conferring with the TVA and city recreation officials with a view to improvement of Negro recreation projects and mapping a program.

Atwell, who has been with the Playground and Recreation association and the War Camp and Community service, has directed Negro community organization for city groups throughout the country. He conferred here with Recreation Director J. Ed Hargraves.

He visited the proposed Negro park to be constructed under the TVA near Harrison, and the Booker T. Washington and city recreational projects. He will return April 7 for further conferences as a result of his visit, he stated last night before leaving for Cincinnati.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
April 3, 1939

To Pay \$2,500 For Road To Negro Park

County Court Releases Back Taxes on Land Acquired by State.

The County Court Monday authorized a maximum expenditure of \$6,500 for obtaining about twenty-two acres of land for a right of way to the Negro park at Harrison Island. The funds will come from money left over from the sum allotted to acquire rights of way for the Taft Highway and Parkway.

Squire C. E. Camp, who intro-

duced the resolution, said acquisition of property along the road would allow the county to control the highway and prevent the erection of joints and bootlegging establishments along the roadside.

Squire Mack Fryar cast the only vote against the resolution. He said some of the residents of the section had protested against a Negro park.

The court also voted to release back taxes on land acquired by the State for the park in Suck Creek Gorge.

The court voted an added appropriation of \$2,000 for carrying on outdoor relief during the final three months of the fiscal year.

Squire G. Russell Brown, chairman of the poorhouse commission, said only \$481 remains from the original \$10,000 fund and unless additional money is supplied, the agency will have to cease operations.

OTHER ACTIONS

Other court action included:

1. Authorized selling of old John A. Patten School property for \$1,000 and use proceeds to purchase land adjoining new school.
2. Appropriated \$2,500 for WPA sewing unit, hot lunch and canning projects.
3. Voted \$2,500 for city traffic lane and police radio system.
4. Authorized sale of old Daisy Negro School to highest bidder.
5. Authorized payment of \$500 for a house belonging to Harry Rogers on property purchased for Red Bank School.
6. Named Hamilton National Bank, Commercial National Bank, American Trust & Banking Company and St. Elmo Trust & Banking Company as official repositories for county moneys without interest, as Judge Will Cummings expressed the hope that the banks would continue lending the county money at 2½ per cent.
7. Authorized closing of county offices for half a day for the opening baseball game.
8. Passed about twenty other resolutions on various matters, mostly to establish new district roads.
9. Elected the usual number of notary publics.
10. Heard James Foxworth of Central High School ask for cooperation of officials in a study of county government being made by Central students.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
April 10, 1939

City Park Season Opens On May 15.

Olgiata Sees Biggest Year Yet; Play Centers Listed.

Chattanooga's 1939 park season will begin officially on Monday, May 15, P. R. Olgiati, the city's park superintendent, announced Monday. The playgrounds will be opened for a three months' program on June 1, he said.

In announcing plans for the opening of the parks Olgiati predicted that the coming season will be the biggest in the history of the city's recreation program.

Ed Hargraves, director of recreation, plans the busiest softball program that has ever been scheduled here, the first game of which will be played the night the park season opens.

Many improvements have been inaugurated in the city's parks and playgrounds since the end of the 1938 season, including construction of ten shelter houses in community playgrounds.

Two new community center buildings are now under construction and should be completed by June 1, or shortly thereafter. One of these is located in East Lake at Thirty-Seventh Street and Dodds Avenue, and the other in East Chattanooga in Avon Park at Dodson Avenue and Daisy Street.

Other improvements that have been made in the parks and playgrounds in the Fall and Winter months include six new tennis courts in already established playgrounds, and the purchase of new equipment for the play centers in which shelter houses were erected.

CENTERS

The play centers where the new shelter houses are located are Milliken Park in Alton Park, Fiftieth Street and St. Elmo Avenue, Bell Avenue in North Chattanooga, Barton Avenue in Riverview, Tenth

Street and Fairview Avenue, Dodson Avenue in Avondale, Wassman Park in Highland Park, on Willow Street in the Oak Grove section, and two colored centers, one at Market and Carr Streets and the other on North Orchard Knob Avenue. These houses were constructed at a total cost of \$61,000 through a joint city and PWA program. The community centers, another PWA project, are estimated to cost \$60,443.32, of which the city will pay \$17,368.19.

With the two community centers now under construction, the city will have a total of five, three of which are for white citizens and two for Negroes. The two white centers now in operation are located in Alton Park, East Chattanooga and one in the old Lincoln High School for colored groups and another colored center on Elm Street.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
April 25, 1939

WORK ON NEGRO PARK PUSHED BY CCC CREW

512-Acre Shelby Tract Will Be Ready Next Summer

With 192 negro Civilian Conservation Corps boys at work, the 512-acre park at the river end of Mitchell Avenue is expected to be ready for use next Summer.

The park is tentatively named Shelby Negro State Park, and is to be operated by the Tennessee Department of Conservation. County funds were used in the land purchase and Federal funds are making the improvements, started almost a year ago. It is less than 15 minutes from Memphis.

Erosion control has been one of the first objectives of the CCC workers. They are also preparing Indian mounds for exhibit. A baseball diamond and a grandstand are being built. A swimming pool is to be built. Another feature of the completed park will be an amphitheater for general meetings and entertainments. Camping sites, overnight cabins, group cabins and lodges are in the plans, as well as picnic grounds with barbecue pits.

Aside from their work, under direction of the National Park Service, the enrollees attend afternoon and evening classes. Elementary and high school subjects are taught with emphasis on vocational training.

D. Minor Coke, educational adviser, is in general charge of courses in elementary subjects, negro history, natural history, surveying, landscaping, tailoring, carpentry, poultry, woodworking, leatherworking, electrical wiring,

automobile mechanics and radio-telegraphy. The woodworking shop is equipped with power tools. Produce from the poultry and gardening classes is turned over to the camp mess. A short-wave radio is operated by the enrollees and keeps the camp in constant touch with district CCC headquarters and other camps.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
June 20, 1939

STATE PARK PROGRAM TO GET FEDERAL AID

\$3,500,000 Will Be Granted By Government

From The Commercial Appeal
Nashville, Bureau

NASHVILLE, June 19.—Tennessee will get \$3,500,000 in Federal funds for park development during the next four years by spending only \$124,000 in state money under terms of an agreement reached today by Governor Cooper and Conservation Commissioner Charles Poe with the National Park Service.

"The Federal Government will spend about \$30 for every \$1 we put up and that seems like too good a proposition to let go by," the Governor declared.

The agreement was reached with Haert Evison, of the Richmond District office of the Park Service. Under present regulations of the Park Service all work would have been stopped by the Park Service on Shelby negro park near Memphis, Booker T. Washington Park, for negroes near Nashville; Cumberland Park near Crossville and Cove Lake Park on an arm of Norris Lake and Harrison Bay Park near Chattanooga, if the state had not agreed to pay part of the cost, it was said. Work already has ceased in Kentucky due to failure of the state to co-operate.

"The money will be spent for roads, general improvement of recreational facilities, buildings of lodges and the like," the Governor said. This development will put Tennessee's park system ahead of that of any other Southern state. When the work is completed these five parks will rank with the best as recreational spots.

The Governor said work already had been started on some of the parks named and that some may be completed this year.

The Governor also said Mr. Evison told him Tennessee is the only Southern state providing parks for negroes.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
June 21, 1939

ATTENDANCE AT PARKS SHOWS SHARP INCREASE

Attendance at the Chattanooga play-grounds this season is already 18 per cent ahead of the attendance last year, according to Ed Hargraves, director of recreation, who reported an exceptionally large attendance at all 800 grounds during the week which closed last Saturday.

The colored attendance at the eight grounds for colored children aggregated 14,768, and at the twenty-one grounds for white children the attendance was 32,650. The attendance at the athletic areas at Chattanooga High school and Warner park was 635, and 635 swims were taken by white children at Warner park, and 608 by colored children at Lincoln park.

For the softball games during the week there were 18,250 spectators at Warner park and 14,578 at Lincoln park, where sixteen softball games were played, and twelve practice games were staged.

There were 15,000 people to visit Warner park last Sunday, and during the week there were nine large picnics and a number of small picnics held on the grounds.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
June 21, 1939

600 COLORED CHILDREN IN FIELD DAY AT PARK

Six hundred Negro playground children swam at the Lincoln park yesterday morning at 10:30, following a field day of competition at the park in which all eight of the colored playgrounds and the two community centers participated.

The activities were under the general supervision of Hubert C. Curtis, director of playground activities, and groups were handled by their respective directors.

One hundred and fifty were engaged in the softball games, with prizes going to White Hill playground for defeating Lincoln Park; Roosevelt playground, winner over Tenth Street; Grove Street, which defeated Hamilton Avenue, and Calvin Donaldson over Arlington playground.

Horseshoe pitching, Chinese checkers, dominoes, tennis and jacks and the use of singing and folk games have grown popular as playground and community activities, Curtis reported.

All athletic contests are supervised by Yarnell Barnes, City High coach, and at the swimming hour there are sixteen persons on duty at the pool.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
June 20, 1939

COLORED PLAY CENTER REPORTS CUT IN CRIME

Colored recreation workers at the Elm Street center, in Tannery flats, report "a marked difference in the establishment last Nov. 1."

An average weekly attendance of 800 in clubs, handicraft groups, boxing, volley ball and softball teams and other activities, conducted in a building formerly occupied by the old Henderson Candy company, have made possible the record that in the neighborhood it serves "not a boy has been arrested at the athletic areas for misdemeanor in the past nine months," according to H. Whitaker, Hampton institute WPA worker.

Whitaker is part of an organization which includes Eleanor Freeman and twelve NYA recreation workers under the general direction of Clayton Hunter, WPA recreation director.

Another such center operates in Churchville at the old Lincoln school building at the end of Holly street. The buildings and operating equipment are furnished by the city's recreation department, and the workers at the WPA.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
November 3, 1939

NEW SWIMMING POOLS PLANNED FOR NEGROES

Two Units, Each To Cost \$35,000, To Be Built By City

Two more negro swimming pools and brick bathhouses, each to cost \$35,000, will be built by the Park Commission and finished by Summer, Joe Brennan, chairman, announced yesterday, following issuance of building permits by the city.

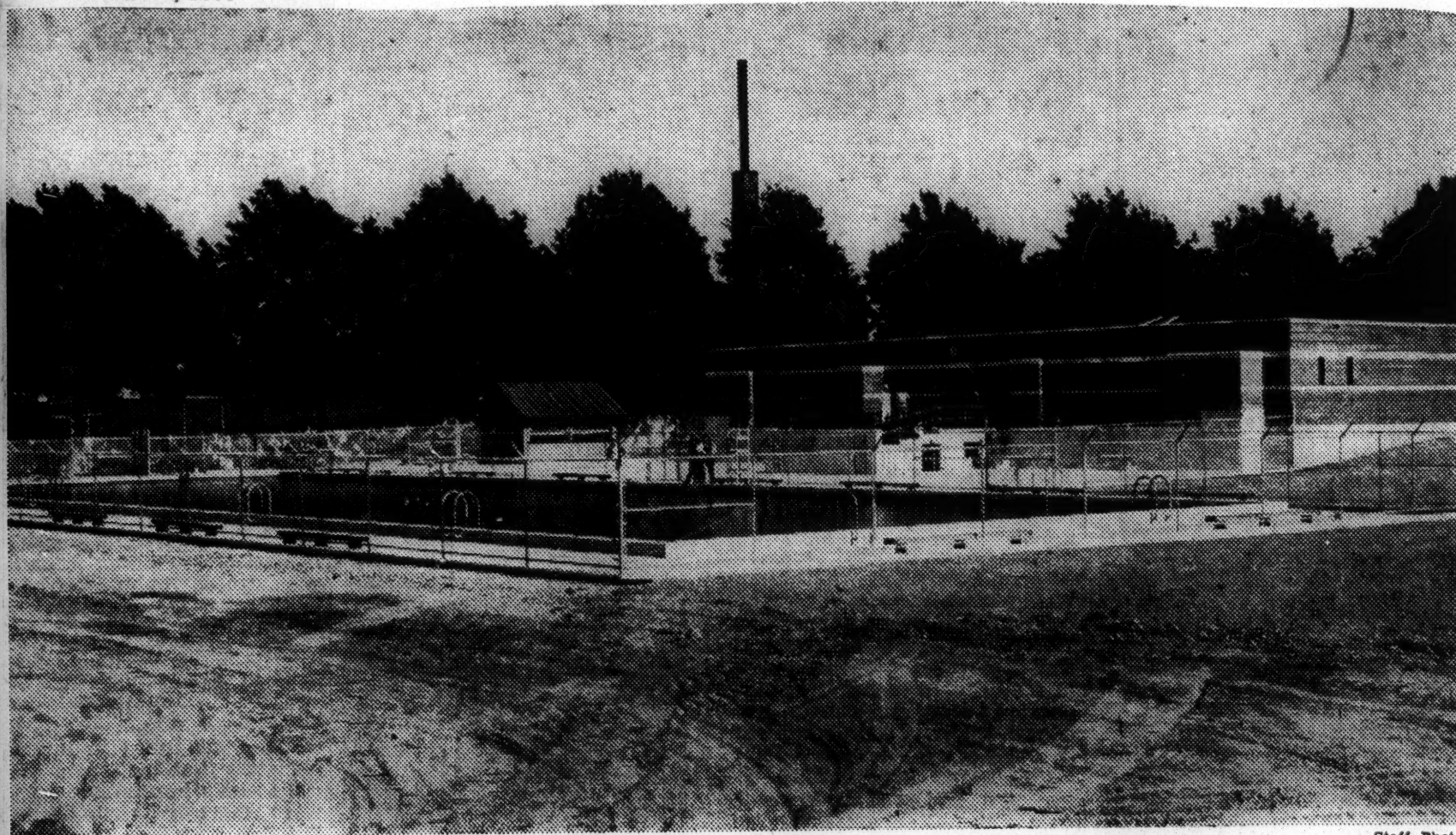
When completed the city will have two public pools for whites and three for negroes.

One of the new pools is to be built at 922 Peach, adjacent to the Carnes School on property jointly purchased by the School Board and Park Commission, and directly north of the Dixie Homes, negro housing area.

The other will be built at 2400 Carnes in Orange Mound.

The new pools will have capacities of about 500 people and will be similar to the Malone Pool. Besides the Malone Pool the Park Commission operates the Fairgrounds pool for whites and the Washington Pool on North Second for negroes.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
June 11, 1939



READY FOR THE SWIMMERS—Here is a general view of Richmond's first swimming pool for Negroes, recently completed after years of negotiations by social-minded

Richmonders. It will be dedicated officially this afternoon.

—Staff Photo.

Negro Pool and Play Center Result of 15-Year Drive

By Overton Jones

When a couple of hundred bodies plunge into the cool waters of Richmond's new and only swimming pool for Negroes tomorrow morning the biggest thrill will not be for the youngsters themselves enjoying the refreshment of an early morning swim. Greatest satisfaction at the thought that Richmond finally has a swimming place for its approximately 60,000 Negro minority will be felt by a score or more persons who won't be splashing around in the carefully filtered water out between old Chamberlayne Avenue and Brook Road. For these are the civic-minded, recreation-conscious individuals who for 15 years have been fighting, urging, pleading and, per-

haps, even praying for the day when the city's Negro population could go swimming without endangering their lives in the swift current of the muddy James River or the near by canal.

To these Richmonders, including members of both races, tomorrow will be a red letter day. It will mark the time when their long-cherished dream becomes a reality. And at 5 P. M. tomorrow when the new playground area is dedicated officially, no doubt some of the spectators attending the exercises will let their minds wander back across the past decade and a half to recall the long but successful fight for a really first-class play area for Richmond's dark-skinned residents.

Result of Tireless Work

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to put a finger on the exact moment agitation for the recreational area began or to name the person who started the movement. Perhaps no one person is responsible, for no doubt leading citizens of both races half a century ago were thinking about the need for better recreational facilities.

But the story in recent years can be traced, traced through the untiring work of civic, religious and social organizations and their leaders.

It was back in 1925 that 10,000 Negro Elks from throughout the United States descended upon Virginia's capital city for the biggest convention of Negroes ever

held here. And between the ceremonial functions of the fraternal organizations, delegates toured Richmond on sightseeing trips, visiting both white and negro sections.

But let a Richmonder pick up the story:

"Our visitors saw all kinds of recreational areas for white folks and wanted to know where our playgrounds were. We had no real play area to show them. So we became even more conscious of the need for some place to play."

\$80,000 Appropriated

So Negro ministers, social workers and civic leaders, working with white friends who also realized the urgent existing need, shortly thereafter went before City Council asking for funds for a good recreational area. Council was sympathetic and appropriated

\$80,000 for the project. But difficulties arose in finding a site for the proposed area, and the \$80,000 reverted to the city when a full year passed without agreement being reached on the matter.

It was only a short while later that a rather elaborate commercial Negro recreational center was opened, an area which included the much-needed swimming pool. But among the Negroes themselves there was opposition to the enterprise because of its location, and for various other reasons. When the area failed after about three years, leaders of the move for greater recreational facilities for Negroes were not disappointed greatly. They pointed out that the need for a public, city-operated area and not for a commercial one.

Meanwhile, during the last 10 years these friends of recreation were not idle. For a while agitation for the big, elaborate play area to include a swimming pool was not pushed. Instead, these folk concentrated their energies on securing smaller playgrounds in various Negro communities throughout the city. And much progress was made.

10 Centers Developed

Ten playgrounds have been developed under the City Bureau of Parks and Recreation, of which J. Malcolm Pace is chief and P. N. Binford, assistant chief. The grounds, with their locations, are as follows: Baker School, First and Baker Streets; Buchanan School, Buchanan and Cedar Streets; Stockton Street, Fourteenth and Stockton Streets; Viaduct, Viaduct and Lewis Streets; Moore School, 1100 West Moore Street; Randolph School, 300 Randolph Street; Oakwood, Thirty-first and Kuhn Streets; Providence Park School, 421 East Ladies Mile Road; Navy Hill School, 740 North Sixth Street, and George Mason School, Twenty-eighth and "M" Streets. Two of these, Stockton Street and Oakwood, are more than mere play areas for small children. They include baseball diamonds lighted for night use. Oakwood is the best recreational area for Negroes in the city, with the exception of the area to be dedicated tomorrow.

But to get back to our story of the new area and its swimming pool, it should be said that by 1938 the feeling that Richmond Negroes should be provided some place where they could go swim-

ming. Members of City Council spoke of the need, Mayor Bright declared it was one of the things the city needed most urgently and the Community Recreation Association, the Colored Recreation Association, the Urban League, the North Side Neighborhood Council and other civic minded groups joined their voices in the plea.

Site Is Opposed

And so it was that last summer, on request from the city, the Public Works Administration granted approximately \$53,000 for the project and City Council appropriated \$84,000. For a while there were days of suspense for advocates of the project when a Council subcommittee's recommendation that the site northwest of and owned by the Valentine Company, Inc., be selected encountered some opposition. A group of North Side residents signed a petition opposing the selection of the area on the grounds that it was too close to their residences. But, despite predictions, these persons failed to appear when the Finance Committee held a public hearing on the matter and the committee by a vote of seven to two recommended to City Council that it purchase the property. The committee apparently agreed with the Negro minister who declared at the hearing, "We'd be out there in a nice place all by ourselves not bothering any one." Alderman L. R. Brown was chairman of the subcommittee which selected the site.

The area, which is located close to Virginia Union University, the Maggie Walker High School and Armstrong High School, embraces 17 acres of land. The pool itself is 165 feet by 60 feet and can care for an estimated crowd of 500 persons at one time. The filtration plant is of a most modern type. The water varies in depth from two to 11 feet.

The pool, while the chief feature of the area, is not the only feature by any means. Three softball diamonds and two football fields are being prepared. Later in the week the installation of lights for softball on one of the diamonds will be completed.

A full-time superintendent, Benjamin H. Thompson, has been employed. There will be three life guards, two bathhouse attendants, a janitor and a caretaker. The pool will be open daily from 6:30 to 7:30 A. M., 10 A. M. to noon, and 2:30 until 10 P. M.

Mr. Binford, who declared that major credit for the area should go to City Council, said yesterday his bureau hopes later to add tennis courts, equipment for children's playground and other facilities.

Speakers for the dedicatory exercises tomorrow will be Gamble Bowers, director of the Department of Public Works, and Mayor Bright.

Danville, Va., Register
June 22, 1939

Recreation Center For Negroes Opened

GRETNNA, Va., June 21.—A recreational center for negro children has been established at the Pittsylvania County Training School here.

In announcing the opening of the new project, the committee in charge said its members were convinced that organized activity is the answer to the problem of juvenile delinquency, and will add to the health and morale of the child.

The center is made possible through the National Youth Administration, and will provide activities which will appeal to all age groups, it was said.

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 26, 1939

Pond Being Provided At Negro Boys' Camp

Colored youths attending Camp Mohawk this summer, jointly sponsored camp near Elliston of the Roanoke area Boy Scout council and the William Hunton branch Y. M. C. A., will for the first time have swimming facilities through the efforts of the camping committee of the scout council.

Work on a 60-foot dam providing a swimming area of about 300 yards is progressing rapidly and the project is expected to be completed when the camp opens July 5. Robert Easley, instructor in building trades at Addison high school, is supervising construction of the dam.

Danville, Va., Register
May 11, 1939

NEGROES ASK FOR NEW PLAYGROUND

Delegation Petitions Council For Better Facilities in North Danville

In a meeting that whisked smartly along from the opening gavel to the notion for adjournment, the City Council transacted a considerable amount of routine business in regular session last night.

A number of citizens occupied the spectators benches in the rear of the chamber.

Under suspension of the rules, Florence Wilson, negro woman, appeared as spokesman for a delegation which besought the Council to provide a playground for negro children in North Danville.

She based her plea on the importance of combatting possible criminal tendencies early by providing constructive recreational facilities for young people, and set forth that negro residents of the section affected had done what they could with their own hands to provide a need which they felt was urgent.

Use Old School Lot

Use is at present being made of the old Grasty school property, which, the spokesman said is not in good condition for a playground, and creates an accident hazard. Between 300 and 400 children are affected, she said. The Council referred the request to the Committee on Public Welfare for study and recommendation.

The Council then went into a public hearing on two rezoning requests, adopting the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals in each instance. No citizens asked to be heard when the meeting was thrown into a public hearing by P. F. Conway, Council president.

The report of the Zoning Board recommended that the ordinance be amended to give sanction to the construction of a new shop by the Danville Traction and Power Company, near its offices on South Main Street, stating that no objection had been raised to this building being erected in this location.

Because of the objection of residents of the area, the report of the board showed it recommended rejection of an application by C. H. Alver, son for rezoning of Monument Street to permit construction of a combina-

tion store and dwelling.

The Council adopted the Public Works Committee's amendment to ordinances governing water rates, providing that the minimum charge in sections where there is no sewerage be reduced from \$1 to seventy-five cents. The amended ordinance boosts the minimum for water users outside the city from \$1 to \$1.25.

The Council also acted to relieve property owners of the expense of repaving streets disturbed for the purpose of installing or repairing gas connections.

The manager of utilities was authorized to enter into contracts of lease with city employees at the Pinnacles plant, for occupation of the city-owned houses built there for housing the operating staff. The dwellings will rent for the nominal sum of \$1 a month, with garage space included.

The Council adopted the school budget for the coming fiscal year which was presented at a special meeting several days ago, and which contemplates an expenditure of \$371,320.69.

Arnett Road Problem

The Arnett Road improvement difficulty came up again when Councilman D. W. Swicegood reported that Union Street business men who have raised a fund for partial payment of securing rights of way for the improvement, wanted their money back unless the project went through as originally planned.

The entire question was referred back to the Public Works Committee for further study and report.

The Works Committee also was authorized to advertise the old Stables warehouse for sale at auction, the bids to be subject to Council approval before acceptance.

The Council acted to change the name of Massey Street in Mountain View to Averett Place. Councilman Swicegood reporting that residents of the short street had requested the change.

Clerk of the Council C. B. Strange read a communication from T. C. Laramore, a member of the School Board, informing the Council that he would not be a candidate for reelection to the board at the end of his current term in June. Mr. Laramore gave as his reason, the fact that business will keep him away from the city much of the time.

The Council adopted an amended ordinance requiring that bicycles be registered with the Police Department, and that they bear a numbered seal. The object of the ordinance is to break up bicycle stealing which has amounted virtually to a systematic racket here in recent

months.

The Works Committee sought and was granted approval of its move to improve the driveways leading from Kemper Road to the Danville Military Institute, while the city is placing surface treatment on Kemper Road. The improvement was petitioned for by the trustees of the school, and the committee reported the cost would be small since the machinery and material were already on the scene.

\$6 Sewer Charge

Under the Works Committee's recommendation, the Council decreed that persons residing outside the city limits who desire sewer connection with the Hilltop sewer line, be assessed a flat fee of \$6 a year, except those who gave the city rights-of-way across their property in connection with the laying of the line. These may make connections free of charge.

Action was deferred on a request from the J. A. Jones Construction Company of Charlotte, N. C., purchasers of the fairgrounds property for a curb and gutter on Lockett Street, the Works Committee recommending that the improvement not be undertaken until after the proposed development there is completed.

The Council authorized the city auditor to pay \$113 to C. F. Tucker, of East Stokes Street in settlement of certain damages to his property, for which the city accepted responsibility.

The Welfare Committee asked and was granted an appropriation of \$350, for the purchase and reconditioning of a truck to be used by the Recreational Department in moving equipment. The department will purchase one of the trucks used in the Pinnacles construction which can be placed in good condition by the expenditure of \$25 for tires, and which will be operated upon the allowance given the director of recreation for operation of his private car in connection with the city's business.